THE TIMES 30P

No. 65,497

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

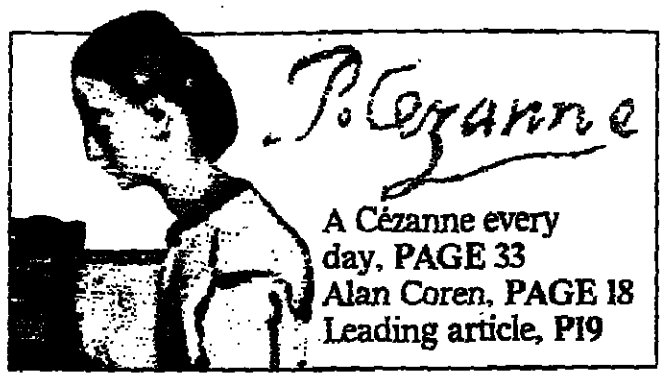
EAT OUT FOR £5

400 top restaurants

Affordable meals with a restaurant to suit every taste. Details and voucher PAGE 31

A movie bloodbath

Desperado, where they have to mop up the gore FILMS, P31



A Cézanne every day, PAGE 33
Alan Coren, PAGE 18
Leading article, P19

APPOINTMENTS

24 pages of top jobs, Section 3

Blair condemns 'Tory lobby fodder'

Notice to quit for hereditary peers in Lords

By Philip Webster, political editor

TONY BLAIR placed Britain's hereditary peers on notice to quit yesterday with his strongest pledge yet that a Labour government would swiftly end a system under which people wielded power by right of birth, not of merit or election.

He put forward a two-stage plan for Lords reform under which the right of about 750 hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Upper House would be scrapped in an early piece of constitutional legislation. Most of them were "just Tory voting fodder", he said in one of the fiercest attacks by a Labour leader on the hereditary principle. Some peers were in the Lords merely because their ancestor was the mistress of a monarch, he said.

The aim would be first to turn the Lords into a genuine "body of the distinguished and meritorious" before moving to the second stage: an elected second chamber which would retain some peers chosen either for their expertise in different fields or because they would not all wish to stand under party labels.

All the signs last night were that the second stage of the reform will not be a priority for a first Labour term.

Mr Blair's onslaught on "the oddest and least defensible part of the constitution" threw Lords reform into the centre of the political arena. Earlier in the day, Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, defended the Lords as a place that worked, a hardworking and serious reforming chamber that provided a vital check on the executive.

Mr Blair's vision of a new-look second chamber came in the course of a wide-ranging speech on the constitution, setting out Labour's plans for Scottish and Welsh devolution, declaring his own support for elected mayors for London and other big cities, and confirming his intention to bring in an elected authority for London and a freedom of information Act. He said, however, that Labour would not try to do it all at once in one great reform Bill. The measures could be achieved only over a period of time.

Delivering the John Smith memorial lecture in London, Mr Blair said it was wrong and absurd that people should wield power by right of birth. "What is more, there are over 300 official Tory hereditary peers, 12 Labour and 24 Liberal Democrat. Hundreds more rarely appear, but if they did, we can be sure very few would side with Labour or the Liberal Democrats. This is plainly, and incontrovertibly politically biased."

"Tory peers did not just use the Lords as a drinking and dining club; they voted and the poll tax, "the most expensive fiasco in fiscal history", would never have become law without the hereditary peers. "There are no conceivable grounds for maintaining this system," he said.

Mr Blair confirmed that Labour was prepared to allow some of those hereditary peers who made regular contributions in the Lords to become life peers. The law lords would also remain.

In remarks confirming that Labour's plans for the second elected chamber are far from complete, Mr Blair said that whatever the final balance between election and merit in that chamber, it was impossible to justify doing nothing about a manifest constitutional unfairness, namely membership of the legislature on the basis of birth. He asked: "Are we going to continue alone of all the democracies to have laws passed by an upper chamber, a majoroty of whose members are thre by birth not merit, perhaps because 300 years ago their ancestor was the mistress of a monarch?"

Dr Mawhinney said that removing hereditary peers would deprive Parliament of a range of experience that had brought to debates wisdom and knowledge that otherwise would be missing. He said that Labour's distaste for the hereditary principle was reflected in the attitude that many socialists had towards the Royal Family. "The threat to the Lords could conceivably pose a threat to our entire constitutional settlement."

Elsewhere in his speech, Mr Blair repeated his pledge to hold a referendum on proportional representation. While making plain that he had yet to be persuaded of the case for change, he pleased some Liberal Democrats by his readiness to be convinced.

Tearoom talk, page 2
Peter Riddell, page 11
Leading article, page 19

ALASTAIR GRANT

Brigadier Parker Bowles and Rosemary Pitman after their wedding in Chelsea

Parker Bowles remarries

By Emma Wilkins

BRIGADIER Andrew Parker Bowles married Rosemary Pitman, a divorced mother of three grown-up sons, in a ten-minute ceremony at Chelsea Register Office in London yesterday.

Brigadier Parker Bowles, 56, whose ex-wife Camilla is a close friend of the Prince of Wales, declined to kiss his new wife, saying the couple were too old for that sort of thing in public. "She is marvellous. What else can I say?" he said, while the new Mrs Parker Bowles said that the ceremony had been very nice.

Unlike his first wedding in 1973, which was attended by 900 people including Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and Princess Anne, there were just five guests at yesterday's ceremony — his children Laura, 18, and Tom, 21, and Mrs Pitman's sons Henry, 33, William, 26 and Tom, 30. They all signed the marriage certificate.

Mrs Pitman's first husband, Lietenant-Colonel Hugh Pitman, is a former cavalry officer from the same regiment as Brigadier Parker Bowles. He is remarried.

Lockerbie opens its homes to victims of the snow

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland correspondent

THE people of Lockerbie, whose community was devastated seven years ago by Britain's worst air disaster, won praise yesterday for opening their homes to hundreds of motorists stranded by blizzards over the past three days.

About 150 motorists were offered beds in homes and stranded travellers were ferried in four-wheel vehicles to emergency accommodation. Local people were digging cars out of the snow throughout the night.

Police in Dumfries and Galloway, the worst hit area in southern Scotland, worked all yesterday to clear the roads of almost 1,000 vehicles stranded on the A74 near the town.

Sergeant David Irving, of Lockerbie police, who coordinated an emergency centre in the town, said: "The people in and around Lockerbie have been incredible. Their generosity is beyond belief."

Around 50 locals volunteered to run the centre — they supplied hot meals and drinks and handed out sleeping bags supplied by the Army.

Forecasters believe the worst of the snow has passed, but predict further light falls by the weekend coupled with high winds. Freezing fog is expected to make driving conditions hazardous for early morning commuters as far south as London today. A spokesman for the London Weather centre said of the gales forecast: "The weekend looks a bit wild."

While most of Scotland, Wales, and western England continued to clear up yesterday after some of the heaviest snowfalls in 50 years, the far South West was in turn hit by blizzards.

Three die, page 5
Forecast, page 22

Dame Pauline: rejects post as No 10 aide

FO's top woman quits to join bank

By Michael Binyon
and Patricia Tehan

DAME Pauline Neville-Jones, 56, the most senior woman in the Foreign Office, is to join the National Westminster Bank after rejecting two senior posts — as ambassador to Bonn, and special adviser to the Prime Minister.

Her abrupt departure is a blow to the Foreign Office, which had hoped that her promotion would have undercut criticism that it does not offer proper opportunities to women.

Dame Pauline will take up her new full-time job as a managing director in charge of developing NatWest Market's international strategy in June. She will follow her former chief, Douglas Hurd, who joined the bank as deputy chairman on an annual salary of £250,000 after resigning as Foreign Secretary last summer. Her basic salary is likely to be just under £200,000. Her performance-related work on privatisation issues could double that.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday praised the key role she played as political director in the Bosnia negotiations and the Dayton peace accord. His words barely conceal the intense irritation in the Foreign Office at suggestions that she has been shabbily treated or

Continued on page 2, col 4

Rapist given five life sentences

A rapist who attacked a young woman days after he was discharged from a psychiatric unit was given five life sentences yesterday.

The trial judge criticised a hospital management's decision not to renew a detention order on Glenn Grant against the advice of his consultants, social workers and nursing staff.........Page 3

Tunnel rail link finance inquiry

Financial irregularities at Union Railways, the company that designed the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link, are to be the subject of the latest investigation into rail privatisation. The contract to build the high-speed link is due to be awarded by the Government within days.........Page 23

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Speaker joins Scott row

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall correspondent

BETTY BOOTHROYD, the Speaker of the Commons, stepped into the growing row over the Scott report yesterday by supporting Labour demands for an early sight of the 1,800-page document.

The Speaker's intervention came only hours before Sir Richard Scott said that he had been put under pressure by the Government into giving ministers the report on the arms-to-Iraq affair seven days before it will be available to the Opposition and the media.

To the Government's obvious embarrassment, Miss Boothroyd said it would be "much better" if MPs were given advance copies of the report.

MPs and journalists have been told that only a handful of ministers and senior officials will see the five-volume report before next Thursday afternoon when it will be presented to the Commons by Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

Sir Richard said on BBC2's *Newsnight* last night that he thought his report should have been released to Government, Opposition and the media simultaneously. "But it was represented to me very strongly by the Government that that was impracticable," he said.

Amid tight security the first copies of the report were delivered to the Cabinet Office yesterday afternoon. The Government is believed to have asked for 20 copies while Sir Richard originally offered six. The number delivered yesterday was said to be "somewhere in the middle."

The Government is using the next week to "co-ordinate" its response.

Miss Boothroyd said that she had no power to intervene but she supported Labour demands for the report to be disclosed early. She said: "In my experience the questioning on any statement is much better focused when some steps have been taken to enable Opposition spokesmen and minority party spokesmen to have access some time in advance to the text of complicated reports."

Downing Street said that it would consider the Speaker's view.

Sir Richard said that no one, including ministers, should have been given prior access to his findings.

Ministers accused, page 11
Television review, page 43

'Cut-price' jets fear as 189 die in crash

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

A BOEING 757 jet which crashed off the coast of the Dominican Republic killing all 189 people on board had not had a formal go-ahead to make the fatal flight to Germany.

Most of the 176 tourists to die were German and early, unfounded, fears that the aircraft had not been insured led the country's transport ministry to consider legal action against the Turkish-owned airline and the tour operator. Last night about 59 bodies had been recovered.

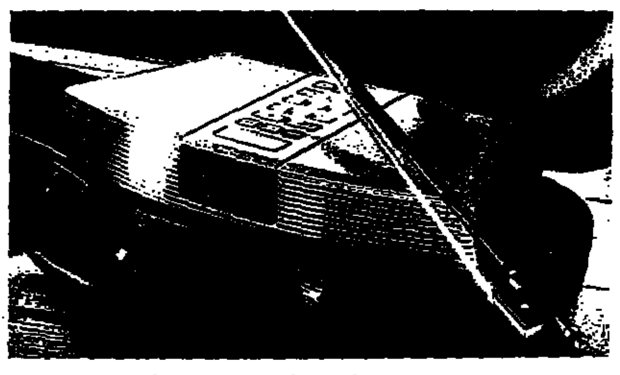
The crash renewed fears over the growing use of cut-price aircraft leased from third countries by hard-pressed holiday companies. Britain's charter airline industry has lobbied hard for tighter controls over "flag of convenience" jets.

After an Algerian-registered Boeing 737 crashed at Coventry airport, the Department of Transport announced last month that it was tightening regulations on the use of foreign aircraft and crew.

Yesterday's crash is certain to bring new demands for even stricter controls to be imposed throughout Europe.

The Boeing 757, considered one of the safest and most reliable aircraft to be built, took off normally. After four minutes, it appeared to turn back towards the airport before diving into the sea.

German mourning, page 14



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Thousands freeze to view Cézanne

By Dalya Alberge
Arts correspondent

CEZANNE fever hit London yesterday as thousands of people descended on the Tate Gallery. A queue stretched the length of the main hall, through the main entrance and down the steps, before making its way round the block towards the underground station. It was at least a quarter of a mile long.

By the end of the day, which included an evening viewing, an estimated 8,000 people had seen the new exhibition. However long the wait, they came away thinking it was worth it.

To get in, though, people suffered: they stood for up to 90 minutes, in freezing conditions, cursing the gallery for not allowing them to wait inside.

These were "friends" of the gallery who, for an annual £35 subscription, see exhibitions first on a "friends' day" and have unlimited access to the shows. Several said that they did not expect to have to queue on "their day". But then the Tate has 13,500 friends, each of whom can bring a guest.

Three retired women, who had come up from Cornwall, were particularly distraught at the sight of the queue. It had not been their day: having set out at 4am, to struggle through the snow to the station, their train broke down three times and they were delayed by two hours. By the time they were likely to see the first exhibit, it would be time to catch the train home again, said Angela Curgenven: "It's heartbreaking."

Once inside, people found something else to complain about: the heat. "It's like a sauna," said a guard.

But whatever the frustrations, Cézanne soothed tempers. Colin Makey, a gardener, said he would have waited for many more hours, "days even. It's fabulous". Dana Tatum had come from Gloucestershire: "It was worth it."

Life mimics art, page 13
Leading article, page 19

"We don't want to see your leader. Take us to the Tate"

9 770140 046244 06

TV & RADIO 42, 43
WEATHER 22
CROSSWORDS 22, 44
LETTERS 19
OBITUARIES 21
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 18
ARTS 31-33
CHESS & BRIDGE 41
COURT & SOCIAL 20
TRAVEL NEWS 36, 37
BODY AND MIND 16
LAW REPORT 38

هكذا في الاصل

Sir Robin's master strokes leave backbenchers in deep end

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

SENDING in the Head of the Home Civil Service to be interrogated by a committee of backbench MPs is rather like inviting an SAS captain to face assault from a team of morris dancers. Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary, was yesterday questioned by the Commons Select Committee on the Civil Service. They might better have spent the day knitting.

This was the first time I had seen the tall and athletic Sir Robin with his clothes on. Along with most of Britain, your sketchwriter first encountered him some weeks ago, appearing in a Channel 4 documentary about a lido in Brixton. Its regular habitués were interviewed, including two lesbian ladies and the Head of the Home Civil Service. He was seen executing a graceful breast-stroke. He was also filmed clad in a pink towel, which at one point seemed close to slipping.

Yesterday at Westminster, Sir Robin's breast-stroke was effortless. Far from making a splash he hardly ruffled the water. Towel never slipped.

The MPs, chaired by Giles Radice (Lab, Durham N), had hoped to probe a little beneath the surface of change in the Civil Service. Butler was not playing their game. But with such skill was he not playing that we were not even conscious of the refusal. Afterwards, one could not remember a word he had said.

MPs took turns at trying to pin him down. I studied each reply, seeking a pattern we might commend to any ambitious young civil servant. In fact, Sir Robin's approach is almost formulaic.

Here are the elements of what I call A Talent to Diffuse:

☐ Be relentlessly pleasant.

☐ Sound bluff. "Grapple" with the question. Avoid the weasely *Yes, Minister* style.

☐ Use self-deprecation.

☐ Don't deny: play down.

☐ Never admit an "either/or" situation.

☐ Insist that whatever has been cited is not new, and has been around since Adam.

☐ Never contradict ministers. Explain what they really meant to say.

☐ Describe the unworkable as "an *aim*".

☐ When asked for a solution, repeat the problem.

☐ If pushed, cite a need for security in public buildings.

Was privatisation "political or managerial", David Hanson (Lab, Delyn) asked. "I hope the two are the same," Sir Robin said, earnestly. Had Mr Heseltine made a difference, asked Tony Wright (Lab, Cannock and Burntwood). "His activities impinge on me," Sir Robin said. What about Heseltine's idea to recruit from the professions? "I do agree with the *aim*." Giles Radice then suggested that Heseltine had trouble reading. Sir Robin was afflicted by a sudden deafness.

Was it advisable to combine his jobs as Cabinet Secretary and Civil Service head? "Yes, in the absence of a better solution." Problems were not problems, but *seen by some* as problems.

Performance-related pay? We've had it for years, Butler said. A huge cut in Civil Service costs? "A great challenge." Did it cause tension? "There is *always* tension." Were civil servants policymakers or (as Stephen Dorrell had claimed) purchasers? "Both."

Ambassadors on boards? "We've done it for 20 years." Why couldn't the *Civil Service Handbook* be placed in the Commons library? Ah, "nothing sinister": secrecy was needed "for the security of public buildings".

Only once did the towel seem close to slipping. Asked about a scheme to let private-sector workers try their hand at Whitehall, Sir Robin assured MPs they would be placed "where they can't do much damage: drafting answers to MPs' letters, and Parliamentary Questions". The committee bristled. "Their drafts have to be checked," Sir Robin added, securing the towel. But the *frisson* was intended.

'People will worry that if Blair goes for us, it will be the Queen next'

Peers defend right to play their part in ruling country

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THEIR Lordships were eating crumpets in the wood-panelled tearooms at the Palace of Westminster when news came through that most of them might soon be banished.

Although the hereditary peers — more than 750 of them are entitled to share the gentleman's club on the banks of the Thames with 300 working colleagues — knew that the Labour Party was "conniving" to scrap them and introduce some sort of elected chamber, they had not realised how strongly Tony Blair felt about the issue and how quickly the change might come.

Their ancestors had won their titles, often centuries before, through gallant deeds, sycophancy, refurbishing the country's coffers or being born on the wrong side of the royal sheets. Now they might have to abandon their palace before the end of the century.

Yesterday they admitted they would be an anomaly in Mr Blair's "classless Britain". They said they were undemocratic, indefensible and male dominated, but they strongly defended their right to continue playing a part in the running of the country.

Most thought Mr Blair's reference to them all being ancestors of mistresses to kings was "a hoot". But they were horrified by the Labour leader's claim that the hereditary Lords used the Palace of Westminster like a club. They pointed out that they could quite happily use White's or Pratt's across the park in Piccadilly if all they wanted was some convivial banter and a place to smoke cigars, drink whisky and play bridge.

They denied that they were there just to pick up their attendence allowance and maybe take a bath before their dinner parties, although one peer privately admitted: "A few people here really abuse the place, but they are frowned upon."

Most said the reason they went to the Lords was for the "stimulating debates" and in order to act as a balance "to the rowdier end of the Palace".

The 4th Marquess of Reading said: "When I first joined I was worried by the lack of democracy, but I now see the wisdom of the Upper House. We are a wonderful, eclectic mix who can talk on the most extraordinary range of subjects. We have also been brought up with a sense of responsibility to govern. You don't have to teach a hereditary peer the ropes, he was born with an understanding of his duties."

Charles II: 15 children by a variety of women

He added: "We do a good job of clipping the wings of the extreme Right and Left and speaking up for common sense. Winning the vote this week on keeping sport on terrestrial TV was an obvious example."

Lord Reading's great-grandfather was a hard-working Jewish lawyer who won his title through merit. "He certainly never flirted with royalty," he said.

The 3rd Earl Kitchener of Khartoum and of Broome said: "It may be anachronistic and illogical that I have a say in running the country, but I take this job very seriously. I would be loath to see us disappear and I am not sure the country would like it either. I have never met anyone who has attacked me over the Lords but then maybe I wouldn't meet people like that, would I?"

Another hereditary Tory peer said: "Tony Blair is a decent enough chap but I think he will come unstuck on this one. A great many people have tried to reform us, but it's harder than you think. We are like limpets and we have a great deal of history on our side. People will worry that if he goes for us, it will be the Queen next."

None of the 12 Labour hereditary peers would comment, but the working peer Lord Weatherill, former Speaker of the House and now convener of the mostly hereditary cross-benchers, said: "The hereditary cross-benchers are often extremely hard-working here. They spend hours trying to unravel messy Bills from the Commons and often stay extremely late to vote. They are badly paid but they do it because they feel they owe it to their country."

The 7th Earl of Onslow, however, is one who is willing to become extinct. "I find it extremely difficult to justify the fact that, because one of my ancestors got pissed with George IV, I can boss you all about. I would be totally in favour of deeply thought out, root and branch reform of the second chamber. I have no objection to that at all and if that means the hereditary peerage is not allowed any say, so be it."

Many of the working peers will stand up for their hereditary colleagues. Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare said: "Some hereditary peers never attend but many are extremely distinguished and would be a great loss."

Lord Winston, who is professor of fertility studies at London University, was recently appointed a working Labour peer. He said: "I am much more impressed than I expected to be by the contribution that some of the hereditary peers make. The advantage the Lords have is that there is a huge care about the place from all peers. There is a concern to find out the truth about something. There is a feeling of co-operation." He added: "I don't believe you could get that in an elected chamber."

Mistresses of the King and mothers of the aristocracy: Nell Gwyn, Duchess of Cleveland and Lucy Walters

Privileged descendants: the Dukes of St Albans, Grafton, Richmond, and Buccleuch and Queensberry

How philandering monarch left his mark

TONY BLAIR'S suggestion that Britain's most élite noblemen owe their status to sexual favours of past monarchs can be traced back to the philanderings of Charles II. The King sired 15 children by a variety of women, some of whom were distinctly low born, and often gave out titles to their offspring in return for keeping their counsel.

Apart from the Royal Family the number of dukes — the highest rank of British peerage — has fallen to 24. There are four semi-royal dukes who inherited their titles through the bastard sons of Charles II, who was responsible for the biggest growth in dukedoms.

The sons of Barbara Villiers, who became Duchess of Cleveland, Nell Gwyn, Louise de Keroualle and Lucy Walters became respectively the Dukes of Grafton, St Albans, Richmond and Gordon, and Buccleuch and Queensberry. The title of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry dates back to 1633. He has been paralysed since a hunting accident 25 years ago.

The first Duke of Richmond, established in 1675, was one of the King's sons. The family seat is Goodwood House, Sussex. The 14th Duke of St Albans owes his title, dating from 1684, to the King's affair with Britain's best known orange seller, Nell Gwyn.

High-flyer quits

Continued from page 1

that her failure to win the job of ambassador to Paris was the evidence of discrimination against women.

Until June she will remain at the Foreign Office but will be seconded to Carl Bildt, the special negotiator in former Yugoslavia. Her job will be to head the Brussels liaison office and implement the civilian arrangements in the peace accords.

The Foreign Office did what it could to stop her leaving, even proposing a specially created Cabinet Office post for a year until the present ambassador to Bonn retires. She would have been the first woman to head a Grade One Embassy, of which there are only seven in the world.

Dame Pauline, created a dame in the last New Year's Honours List, said she was taking the job because "I believe it is the right move is make at this time". She admitted that frustration with her situation at the Foreign Office had played a part in her decision. She wanted to become ambassador to Paris, but the position went instead to Michael Jay, a Deputy Under-Secretary in charge of relations with Europe and economic affairs.

The Foreign Office said her move did not reflect on the promotion chances of women, who last year accounted for 57 per cent of the intake into its fast stream.

Dame Pauline, a strong-willed diplomat with a reputation for intimidating her staff, is a respected but not popular figure in Whitehall. Her relations with Sir John Coles, the Permanent Under-Secretary, are said to have been uneasy. But she has won high praise for her robust defence of British and European interests in standing up to Richard Holbrooke, the American negotiator who attempted to shut the Europeans out of the Dayton peace negotiations.

She was prevented by civil service rules by speaking publicly about her treatment, but it prompted her mother, Dr Celia Winn, to accuse the Foreign Office of discriminating against women.

Tories reject Irish peace conference

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LONDON and Dublin were at loggerheads again last night, this time over Irish proposals for a Bosnian-style conference to break the deadlocked peace process.

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, said the idea was "at best premature" while Unionists and their Tory supporters at Westminster condemned the proposal as "mischievous" and a "desperate ploy".

Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, proposed that the two governments should invite all political parties in Northern Ireland to two days of intensive talks under the same roof, as President Clinton had done at Dayton, Ohio, with the warring parties in Bosnia. Mr Spring, who discussed his idea in Dublin with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that no party would be forced to sit down with their opponents at the talks, which would be held at Stormont.

The governments would then shuttle between Unionists and Sinn Fein to try to pave the way for all-party talks. Irish ministers are concerned that the peace process could unravel if Sinn Fein is not brought into inclusive talks by the end of this month.

British officials scoffed at Mr Spring's idea, saying it was unrealistic. They insisted that elections provided the best way of moving towards all-party talks if the IRA refused to disarm.

The Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis said: "The silly thing about Mr Spring's mischievous proposal lies in the fact that terrorist Serb leaders were not permitted to attend the Dayton conference. So I assume similar constraints will be imposed on certain people as far as Mr Spring's proposal is concerned."

Scientists link power lines to cancer

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have discovered a link between high voltage power lines and some forms of cancer which could open the way to scores of legal actions against electricity companies and suppliers.

Researchers at Bristol University have added scientific weight to claims that people living near pylons and power lines are exposed to a greater than average risk of lung cancers and leukaemia. Their evidence challenges claims by the National Radiological Protection Board that the risk is negligible.

The research, funded by the Medical Research Council and published next week in the *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, suggests there is a link between power cables and radioactive radon gas, found naturally in many homes. Radon, which affects thousands of homes built on granite in counties including Derbyshire, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, and Northamptonshire, decays into highly radioactive particles which are a known cancer risk. The Department of the Environment has surveyed 250,000 homes in areas at risk and has offered advice on ways of curbing the gas.

The electrical field around power lines is believed to add charge to the radon particles, causing them to adhere to curtains, clothes and furniture. This in turn may increase the chance of the particles being breathed in and contaminating the lungs and the bloodstream.

The full findings of the research will be awaited by residents of Fishpond Bottom in Dorset who blame nearby power cables for a high incidence of illnesses from anxiety and depression to epilepsy and brain tumours.

A High Court case is pending in which Ray and Denise Studholme, of Little Lever, Bolton, Greater Manchester, claim the death from leukaemia of their son Simon, 13, is linked to his bedroom being next to an electricity substation. The electricity firm Norweb is contesting the case.

John Stather of the National Radiological Protection Board said last night it was "pure speculation" to suggest that people might breathe in larger amounts of the particles because of electric fields.

Simon Studholme: High Court case pending over his leukaemia death

Peer seeks curbs on use of mobile phones

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PROMINENT member of the Shadow Cabinet plagued fellow travellers as he made almost continuous mobile telephone calls on a recent rail journey between London and Edinburgh, the House of Lords was told yesterday.

The Conservative peer Lord Campbell of Croy told the House that the only "light relief" for the other passengers had been when the politician, whom he did not identify, made loud suggestions as to what the Labour Party should do about Arthur Scargill, who challenged Labour in the recent Hemsworth by-election with his new left-wing party.

Lord Campbell cited the case in pressing the Government to back a code of conduct for the use of mobile telephones in public places.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Trade and Industry Minister of State, voiced support for the idea of having areas on trains, in restaurants and other public places for mobile phone users. But he dismissed a code of conduct as unnecessary.

Lord Campbell said several mobile phones in a restricted area was a serious nuisance. "While they may be necessary in the modern, competitive business world, shouldn't special areas be designated, especially on trains, where passengers suffer unduly especially when voices are raised to shouting when they pass through tunnels?"

Lord Fraser said many people had suffered the "intolerable situation" of being forced to listen to "extremely boring" telephone conversations. "It would be polite if people did not engage in these phone calls at maximum pitch," he said. "It might be desirable if trains and restaurants did introduce some arrangements of their own."

He said things overheard on the top deck of a bus would often be "brilliant" opening lines for a novel, but he had never heard anything in a mobile phone user's conversation that caught his imagination.

Lord Beloff, a Tory peer, said people using mobile phones did so to enhance their prestige and should be awarded an alternative "badge of importance" to wear, so that everyone could be spared the tedium of their conversations.

Lord Peston, for Labour, suggested a return to enclosed telephone boxes into which mobile phone users could step to have their conversations without disturbing others.

Lord Richard, Labour peers' leader, intervened to say this particular problem was likely to remain until only the next election: "After that, the members of the Shadow Cabinet will be in ministerial cars."

One in three unhappy, page 6

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Five life terms for 'Beast of Belgravia'

Judge attacks hospital chiefs who freed rapist against doctors' advice

By Carol Midgley

Grant: gave himself up to the police

A RAPIST who attacked a young woman days after being discharged from a psychiatric unit was given five life sentences yesterday. The trial judge criticised a hospital management's decision not to renew a detention order on Glenn Grant against the advice of his consultants, social workers and nursing staff.

Grant, 27, was nicknamed the Beast of Belgravia by police because of his claim that the turning point in his life was when he glimpsed the area's wealth during a school trip to an art gallery, and decided he had a "mission" to rape white, middle-class women.

The victim of his new attack, a 26-year-old wine buyer, said last night: "He should not have been let out. They must have been able to see he was still very unbalanced. I was with him for one and a half hours and in that time I knew for certain he was not sane. He should never be let out again."

The Old Bailey had heard that Grant, accompanied by his mother, gave himself up at Brixton police station on the day of the rape. He ordered police to call him Jesus.

Grant, described as a sexual sadist and paranoid schizophrenic, had already served a 10-year sentence, given in 1984, for raping two women when he was 15. His victims had been a 33-year-old housewife and a a 20-year-old freelance artist. At the time, he said he was jealous of their wealth.

During his prison term, he was transferred to the Broadmoor top-security hospital in Berkshire. Once his sentence was served, he was sent to Cane Hill Hospital's Regional Secure Unit, south London, under a Mental Health Act order. In January last year, the hospital decided not to renew the detention order and from that moment he was an informal, voluntary patient. During home and weekend leaves, he committed a series of violent robberies and aggravated burglaries in which three young women were tied up and terrorised with a gun and a married church-worker was held at gunpoint. He robbed a jewellers in Victoria, London.

Grant had later admitted that he often replaced the medication prescribed to him as an outpatient with crack cocaine.

He was formally discharged from Cane Hill on April 12 1995 and last seen as an outpatient on April 21. He committed rape four days later, smashing his way into the woman's home and beating her about the head.

He pulled a knife from her kitchen drawer and warned that he would kill her if she screamed. She was raped three times. The victim, who is single and Roman Catholic, gave evidence against her 6ft attacker.

Grant, from Brixton, south London, was told that he would not be eligible for parole for 14 years and may never be fit for release.

The five life sentences are for the rape, two offences of aggravated burglary, armed robbery, and having a firearm with intent. Judge Forrester told him: "I have no doubt that when at large you are a substantial and continuing danger to the public."

Afterwards, the rape victim said: "I am serving a life sentence now, my life has been destroyed. The one thing that has kept me going throughout this is that I want to make sure he doesn't wreck someone else's life like he has mine.

"Things must change so that people like him are not let out unsupervised. I am terrified of being on my own now. I never feel safe. When I go to bed at night, I wear tracksuit bottoms and a jumper in case I have to make a quick escape. I feel trapped.

"I knew from the moment I saw him that he was imbalanced. In a matter of seconds he would go from one extreme to the other, one minute being violent, the next telling me he loved me and hugging me like I was his girlfriend," she said.

"My one hope was to placate him, although I think he is very clever and very manipulative. It would not surprise me if he had managed to convince the doctors that he was better mentally than he really was. This man should not be released again. To my mind, in Broadmoor he would have too much of an easy life with all those luxuries and doctors giving him attention. All this time I am suffering every day."

She said she was still uneasy with men, but hoped that one day she would recover sufficiently to have the husband and family she has wanted since her youth.

"I am still frightened but I have my dreams. I dream that one day I will have my husband and my own family and be happy. I will not let him take that away from me."

Grant, whose mother runs a catering businsess in London, said the turning point in his life had come when he went on a school trip to an art gallery in Belgravia. Detective Inspector James Webster, of Brixton CID, said: "What turned him was that he realised that, however hard he worked, he would never be able to achieve or be on a par with the white people in Belgravia. As he saw it, the only way to redress that imbalance was to rape the women there and take their dignity away from them."

Jodi Berg, chairman of the Ravensbourne NHS Trust which is responsible for Cane Hill Hospital, said an inquiry into the circumstances of Grant's discharge had "found no evidence of negligence". He said: "At the time of discharge, Mr Grant was a voluntary patient and therefore not subject to detention under the Mental Health Act. We will be reviewing the results of the enquiry alongside the information gained as a result of the trial to see if any further lessons can be learnt."

When Grant had served his 10-year sentence he was sectioned under the Mental Health Act on the advice of experts and sent to Cane Hill Hospital. When the order expired on January 12, 1995, he appealed against it being renewed. Visiting hospital managers saw him and agreed not to renew the order.

A spokeswoman for trust admitted that medical experts had wanted to renew Grant's Section, keeping him as a patient in hospital. She said: "Whilst the responsible medical officer's report supported the renewal of the Section, taking into account all the evidence and information presented on the day the Mental Health Act visiting managers did not feel that the criteria for detention under the Act had been met."

The visiting managers are trained lay people independent of trust management and act as a tribunal making a decision based on all the evidence, including from the patient himself.

A statement from the trust added: "Mr Grant appeared at the hearing and presented extremely well, showed considerable insight into his condition."

STEWART COOK

Joan McDonough and her husband, the Rev Roger Stokes, who is representing her

Royal chapel 'assumed that female baritone was a man'

By Joanna Bale

A VICAR'S wife is claiming sexual discrimination after being rejected as a baritone lay clerk in the Queen's chapel at Windsor Castle.

When her application for the position was turned down, Joan McDonough discovered that staff at St George's Chapel had assumed she was a man. They had written to one of her referees: "This gentleman has recently applied to the Dean and Canons of Windsor to be considered for appointment as a baritone lay clerk."

Dr McDonough, 38, said: "John Allen, the Provost of Wakefield Cathedral, wrote back saying he felt obliged to say I was no gentleman. They instantly assumed that it was only a man that could apply for the job."

Dr McDonough, who is studying theology at Leeds University, decided to take the matter to an industrial tribunal, which opened yesterday at Reading, Berkshire, where she was represented by her husband, the Rev Roger Stokes.

She said she saw the post advertised in the Church Times a year ago and was attracted to the idea of working at the chapel, which employs 12 men as lay clerks.

"Accommodation was available with the job, which meant my husband could have continued his work as a freelance vicar." She had said in her letter of application that she was a baritone — she used to sing with the Royal Choral Society. "I am the deepest-singing woman I know."

Dr McDonough, of Batley, West Yorkshire, who is claiming sexual discrimination against the Deans and Canons of Windsor, has yet to give evidence to the tribunal. It was adjourned for consideration of statutes dating from the 14th century.

Muggers jailed for 18 months out after 53 days

By Stewart Tendler and Richard Ford

TWO teenage muggers whose sentences were increased from probation to 18 months in jail after police protested against excessive leniency have been released after serving 53 days.

The pair were sent to jail by the Court of Appeal after detectives complained about the original sentence imposed at Southwark Crown Court. The Court of Appeal said the trial judge had failed to recognise that the public needed to be protected from the youths who robbed a man at a cashpoint while on licence from prison where they were serving sentences for another robbery.

Robert Barthelmy and Daniel Hobbs, both aged 19 and unemployed, from Highbury, north London, were released last week under a formula which took into account their period on remand and on bail while they appealed against the sentences.

They were convicted last July of attacking a man drawing money from a cash machine on Tottenham Court Road, central London, in May. They were arrested by officers from the Holborn robbery squad who had been following them as part of a Metropolitan Police campaign against muggings.

They were sentenced to 12 months' probation each and 60 days at an attendance centre but on the same day the Court of Appeal overturned the punishment and sentenced them to 18 months' imprisonment. They were released so soon because anyone sentenced to four years or less automatically serves only half the prison term. The prison service also took into account the 85 days they spent on remand awaiting trial and the time between July 1995 and October which the men spent on bail awaiting the appeal.

Commander Malcolm Campbell, head of the detective force in northwest London, said: "We are disappointed that, after a non-custodial sentence was increased on appeal to 18 months, the two people were freed in so short a time."

Police link widow to TV man's murder

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

THE widow of a Scottish-born television executive who was murdered in Australia nearly four years ago has been named as the only person with a motive for the killing.

The claim was made at an *inquest into the death of* Richard Diack, who grew up *in the Edinburgh* area before *emigrating* in the 1980s.

Mr Diack, 41, was bludgeoned to death on a remote track in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, in 1992.

At the inquest police alleged that Peruvian-born Ms Bresciani, a broadcaster, erased part of a computer disk containing her husband's diary, which gave details of their deteriorating marriage.

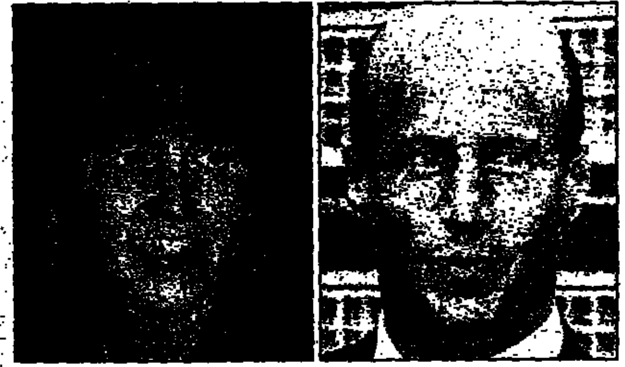
Detective-Sergeant Graeme Merkel said that "the only person identified with any possible motive was Emelia Bresciani" but there was no direct evidence to show she had any involvement in the death.

Ms Bresciani said she was hurt by the allegations. "It was very obvious from the beginning that you were treating me as the killer rather than the wife," she told the detective during the hearing in Sydney.

The inquest was adjourned.

Duchess denies Bryan's claim to Budgie cash

By Stephen Farrell


The Duchess originally promised to hand over a third of her Budgie earnings, Mr Bryan claims

THE Duchess of York promised yesterday to fight any *attempt* by John Bryan, her former financial adviser, to claim 10 per cent of her earnings from Budgie the Helicopter.

Mr Bryan's German lawyers confirmed that they were to seek payment over the cartoon character, for which the Duchess recently signed a £3 million deal with a consortium of American investors.

The Duchess's private office said last night: "Her Royal Highness The Duchess of York denies absolutely any agreement with Mr Bryan concerning the prospective income from her cartoon character Budgie. She will therefore defend vigorously any proceedings which Mr Bryan might choose to initiate."

The 40-year-old Texan businessman has instructed a Frankfurt firm of solicitors to find out details of the Duchess's American deal, which was announced last month. Mr Bryan, who has severe debt problems over the £10 million collapse of *his construction company* Oceonics *Deutschland*, is said to be *demanding* 10 per cent of *global earnings from Budgie, claiming that* the Duchess *originally promised* him one third of *income from* television, film and publishing rights. Disclosing his intention to sue, he said he had supported her with "millions of dollars" in the early days of their four-year friendship. "Half of my staff were working for her and it was coming all out of my pocket. It was never supported by anyone," he said.

"A lot of people were hired just for her. There were lawyers doing all her deals and administrators for charities — all on my buck."

He claims to have rescued *Budgie from disaster* when he *negotiated* the original £2.5 *million* deal with the Buckinghamshire company Sleepy Kids in July 1994. "That property was totally dead when I got hold of it," he is reported to *have said.*

Mr Bryan's move is the third threat of legal action for the Duchess in recent days. The socialite Lily Mahtani is suing for alleged non-payment of a £100,000 loan and the furniture supplier Roomservice Designs said it would issue a writ if the Duchess did not keep up £600-a-month payments on rented reproduction antique furniture. The Duchess also has an overdraft, estimated to be up to £3 million, with Coutts.

Michael Korde, a lawyer with *Dr Groepper and Partners of Frankfurt, said:* "It is correct that Mr Bryan wants some *money* from her over Budgie the Helicopter. We must speak with the Duchess's lawyers and then we will see what will happen. I believe it will not be necessary to go to court."

Army goes gentle on raw recruits

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

AN ARMY officer who fought in one of the Falklands' toughest battles said yesterday that the new generation of recruits needed the gentle touch.

Lieutenant-General Hew Pike, who commanded the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in the attack on Mount Longdon, told MPs that young people needed more time to acclimatise to army life. Several measures have been introduced to make life easier for the new recruit, to ensure he or she is not put off military life by an overexuberant sergeant-major.

Giving evidence to the Commons Defence Select Committee yesterday, General Pike, now deputy commander-in-chief of the Army's Land Command, underlined the softer approach adopted for recruits.

General Pike, who has a son aged 25 serving with The Parachute Regiment, said: "We are recruiting a generation of young people who seem to need more time to develop the resilience and toughness we require of them. If you try to push it too quickly, they seem to break more quickly than previous generations."

He said medical records proved that the present generation was not as physically tough. "We have to take account of that in our approach to training to give recruits as gentle an introduction to the Army as we can. We don't put them into boots straight away. We monitor the length of marches and so forth. We have less of a sink-or-swim approach than in the past." The committee was told that as part of efforts to increase recruitment, new members of infantry, tank and gunner regiments are to be given vocational training.

The move has been ordered to try to encourage young men and women to join the infantry instead of units such as the Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, where they are assured highly specialised courses.

The Army is facing a serious shortfall in recruits, particularly in infantry, artillery and cavalry regiments. Senior officers believe parents are advising their children against joining these units because they learn only basic skills that are of little benefit to them in the civilian jobs market.

The Army is also considering reinstating the junior leaders' scheme, which provides training for promising 16-year-olds, and reversing apprenticeship cuts.

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Carling case does not signal press free-for-all, says Wakeham

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

LORD WAKEHAM, *chairman of* the Press Complaints Commission, *has written* to the National Heritage Secretary, defending his decision to reject a complaint about invasion *of privacy* from Julia Carling.

In his letter to Virginia Bottomley, Lord Wakeham *said* he was concerned that the case had given rise to mis-statements and misunderstandings that needed to be corrected. He rejected accusations by Mrs Carling's lawyers that the commission's ruling gave newspapers *carte blanche* to publicise *the private lives of people in the* public eye.

He pointed out that the commission is to *uphold a complaint* about invasion of privacy from the television presenter Selina Scott next month. Ms Scott objected to a *News of the World* article which alleged that she had had an affair more than 15 years ago with a man who had given an interview to the newspaper. Ms Scott denies the affair.

In its defence, the News of the World produced numerous articles by Ms Scott and interviews she had *given since* 1984. The commission will rule that none of these warranted an invasion of her privacy concerning "the reporting of events in her life a considerable time before".

Last month the commission rejected a complaint against *The Sun* brought by Mrs Carling, the estranged wife of the England rugby captain. *It ruled that she had* effectively forfeited her right to privacy by co-operating previously with media articles and interviews designed in part to enhance her career as a television presenter.

The ruling followed comments by Lord Wakeham that the Princess of Wales *might have* compromised her right to privacy by giving her *Panorama* interview.

Mrs Carling's lawyers, Stitt & Co, wrote to Mrs Bottomley, complaining *that the ruling* would "encourage further media excess in relation to so-called 'public figures'".

Lord Wakeham said that, if true, Stitt & Co's arguments would lead to the "bizarre result" of people in the public eye being free to give information about their private lives for the purposes of self-publicity and yet able to stifle reporting on the same facts on the ground that a breach of privacy *had occurred*.

The commission's code of conduct says that "intrusions and inquiries into an individual's private life without his or her consent ... are not generally acceptable and publication can only be justified when in the public interest". There are no specific regulations, however, on people who have willingly put information about themselves into the public domain.

Lord Wakeham said that each *case was treated on its own merits* and emphasised that the fact that a complainant has previously sought publicity did not mean that the press was entitled to publish articles on any subject involving that person or his or her family.

Scotland struggles back to work as roads in the South West are closed by fresh falls

Three killed clearing paths after blizzards

By Richard Duce
Gillian Bowditch
and Kate Alderson

THREE people collapsed and died while clearing snow from their paths as Scotland recovered *from some* of the worst weather in 50 years. While most of Scotland, Wales, and western England struggled in the aftermath of heavy snowfalls, fresh *blizzards hit the* South West.

Hundreds of drivers were trapped in cars and lorries and the main dual carriageway route into Cornwall was closed in several places by *drifting* snow. Some 2,400 homes suffered power cuts as lines were brought down in heavy winds. The *lowest* recorded temperature on Tuesday night was -11.3C in Madley, Hereford and Worcester — colder than Helsinki.

Scotland enjoyed a respite yesterday, allowing people in the worst affected region, Dumfries and Galloway, to clear roads and *search for* those trapped in the snow. But weather forecasters said blizzards would return tomorrow and at the weekend.

The M74, the main route between Scotland and England, reopened 36 hours after it had been cut off. Police began moving 1,000 abandoned vehicles *and escorting* hundreds of stranded motorists from the emergency centres where they had been sheltering for two days.

The atrocious weather was blamed yesterday blamed for the loss of at least eight lives. Elderly people were warned to stay indoors after three people from *Lanarkshire* collapsed and died while clearing snow from their paths. Age Concern said any exertion in the extreme cold could put a strain *on the* heart and advised people to stay warm and call for help from relatives or friends.

Hammond: kept warm by a copy of *The Times*

Two people were killed *when two vehicles collided on* black ice on the A15 at Waddingham near Lincoln and another man died when his BMW car overturned on the A3 near Petersfield, Hampshire. Dean Hart, 28, *died after diving into the* Tees to rescue his dog in Stockton, Cleveland. In Liverpool Elizabeth Wilson, 89, died after she was found frozen on her own *doorstep*.

A lifeboat was launched yesterday to collect and deliver food to 120 children snowed in at St Bees School in the west Cumbrian coastal village of the same name. Captain Leon Goldwater, *skipper of the* village lifeboat, sailed to Whitehaven five miles along the coast to fetch supplies for the school and 2,000 villagers.

A *solicitor said he kept* warm by wrapping his copy of the *The Times* around his legs after he was trapped by snow for 24 hours in his car near Whitehaven. *An expected two* and a half journey home for David Hammond, 53, to Whitburn, Tyne and Wear, took him three days.

At Marwell zoo *in Hampshire* South African meerkats were provided with special sun lamps in their outdoor enclosure to combat the cold. Keepers at the hilltop Welsh Mountain Zoo, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, were *continually* breaking the ice on the penguin and sealion pools to enable them to have a swim.

The holiday firm Inspira*tions has brought out its* 1996-97 winter sun brochure six weeks early. "The winter brochures normally come out in March — but the way the weather is now, people are already thinking about getting away *next* year," said a spokesman.

A move to introduce automatic cold weather payments in most of the country between *December and March each* year, whatever the temperature, was launched in the Commons yesterday. The present system is triggered *when sub-zero conditions* have been reached on seven consecutive days in a specific region.

Under a backbench Bill *introduced by Margaret* Ewing, parliamentary leader of the Scottish nationalists, people in the coldest part of Britain, northern Scotland, would *receive payments of* £11.15 a week.

☐ Householders were told yesterday that they could face a legal writ over the clearing of *snow from their paths and* steps. Kerry Gwyther, a personal injuries solicitor and partner at Lawrence Tucketts of Bristol, said that under the law, if a householder attempted to clear snow and failed to do a proper job of it, he was more liable than if he had left the snow uncleared.

Sun lamps were used to keep South African meerkats warm at Marwell Zoo

Teenagers die under ice

TWO teenagers died when their car sank upside-down in the icy waters of a dyke. Two others managed to escape *from the crash at Benwick, Cambridgeshire.*

***Steven Slade-Robson*, 15, one of the survivors, had smashed the windscreen of *the Ford Orion with his feet* as it left the road and headed for the water. He managed to crawl out to safety as it sank. He then saw the hand of 16-year-old Laura Prince sticking up through the cracked ice and pulled her to safety. The two raised the alarm for *their friends but rescue* workers' attempts at resuscitation failed.**

The dead were named as Russell Rigby, 18, the driver, and *Sarah* Law, 16. Inspector Adrian Tomkinson, of Cambridgeshire police, said: "Steven showed great presence of mind."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital screened for TB

Twenty patients and 80 staff are to be screened after a junior doctor at Fazakerly Hospital, *Liverpool*, contracted pulmonary tuberculosis. A spokesman for Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust said the screening was a "precautionary and reassuring" measure. The woman doctor is thought to have contracted the disease working abroad.

Tourists knifed

John Stewart, 66, and Eric Buchanan, 62, from Scotland, were treated in hospital for stab wounds after the *fourth attack this month* on holidaymakers in Cape Town by gangs of robbers.

Paedophile hunt

Scotland Yard is tracking paedophiles who are using computer graphics to merge pictures of children *in* magazines and catalogues with pornography in a practice called pseudo-imaging.

Domestic fixture

***Manchester United* has been granted a licence to hold civil marriages at its *Old Trafford* ground. But the ceremony can take place only in the club's *Premier suite* and not on match days.**

CORRECTIONS

Although the Confederation of British Industry is opposed to legislation outlawing age discrimination, it does not believe that older workers necessarily cost more or are harder to retrain (report, February 5).

***St Peter's C of E High School* (report, February 6) is in Exeter, not Plymouth.**

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One small step for explorers

Satellite technology moves South Pole to its true position

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have found that the much-photographed post used to mark the location of the South Pole is in the wrong place. American researchers using satellite mapping have discovered that the true spot is about 18in from where previous calculations had placed it.

The discovery means that glaciologists and meteorologists have, unwittingly, been standing in the wrong spot for their traditional group photographs. It also raises the possibility that Amundsen, the Norwegian credited with beating Scott to the Pole, might have undershot his target.

The Pole's new position has been plotted by the United States Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. Gordon Shupe, a scientist with the survey, flew to Antarctica to make sure the marking post was relocated in the proper place. "It is not a big change. We presume that the new measurement is more accurate, so we yanked it in to where it should be," he said.

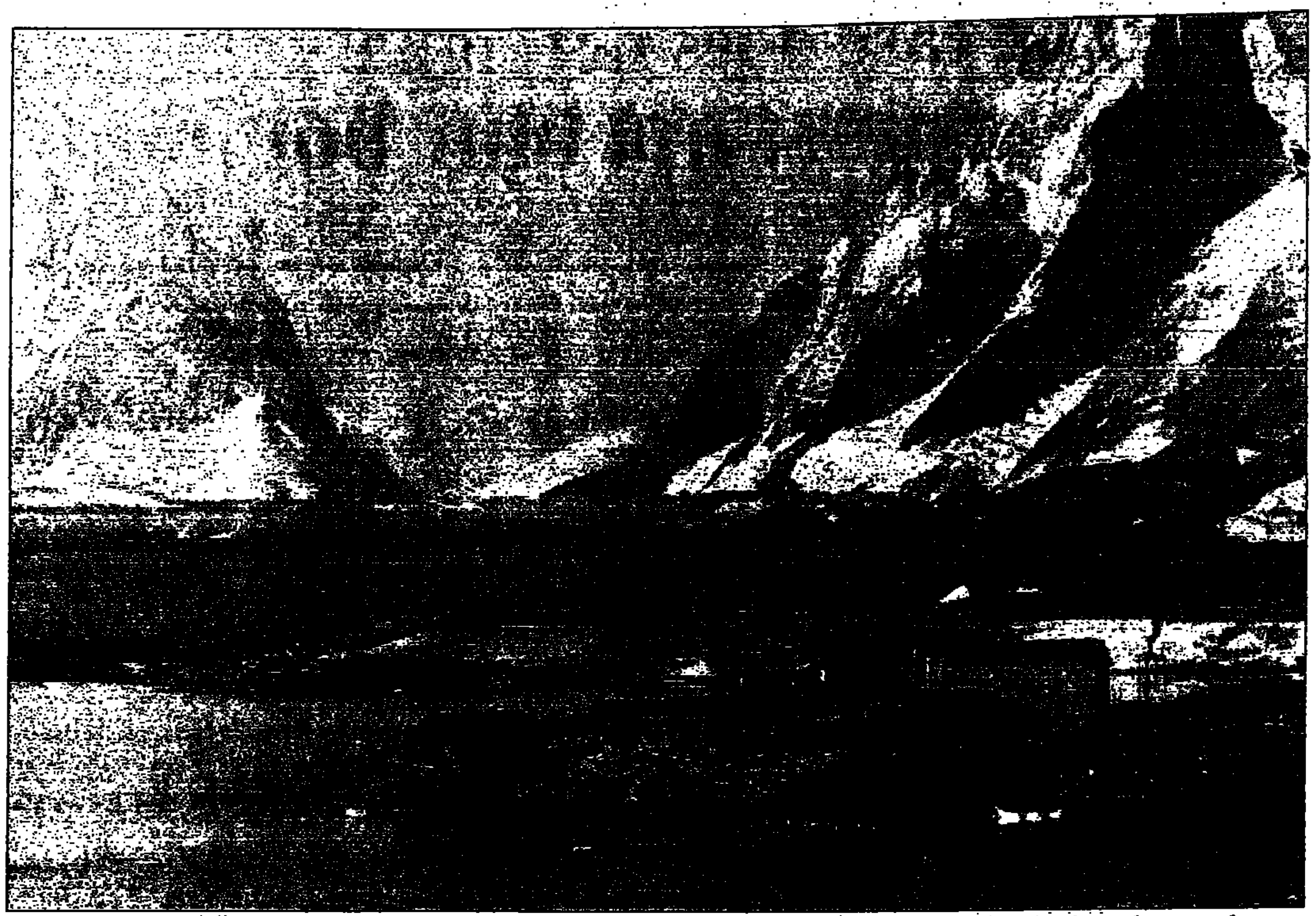
Christopher Doake, of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, said yesterday that the discovery highlighted the increasing accuracy of satellites for mapping.

Ancient explorers used trigonometry, working out their position from the stars, the Moon and the Sun. This method can be accurate to about 100 to 200 yards The South Pole's previous position was fixed with the use of a constellation of satellites called Transit. They work using the Doppler effect, known to schoolboys as the change in frequency that occurs when a train approaches and passes through a station.

The Americans used the military's network of Global Positioning Satellites, which were also used extensively in the Gulf War to pinpoint troop positions in featureless deserts, to find the Pole's new position. The system is said to be accurate to within a yard, as against tens of yards for the Transit system.

The repositioning of the South Pole, reported in *New Scientist*, is unlikely to be the last word on the affair. Dr Doake pointed out that the location changes with the wobble in the Earth's orbit.

Meanwhile, American scientists will not be able to rest on their laurels. The ice sheets in Antarctica move by 10 yards a year, so the posts put in to mark the Pole's position stretch into the distance in a neat line. Because of the correction, there is now a slight kink in the line.



Faraday station, the oldest base in the Antarctic peninsula, which is being renamed Vernadsky when the Ukrainians take over today

Britain's farewell to Antarctic base

A CHAPTER in Antarctic history comes to a close today when Britain hands over the Faraday research station to Ukraine (Nick Nuttall writes). The oldest base on the Antarctic peninsula has been used for studying weather, the Earth's magnetic field and the ozone layer since it was set up during the British Graham Land Expedition of 1934-37.

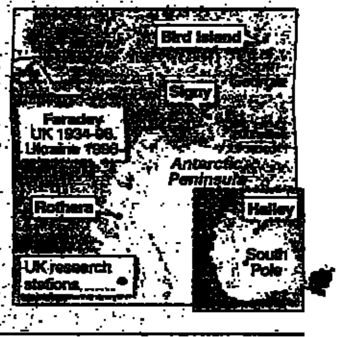
The cost of upgrading it to modern health and safety standards has been deemed too costly. Instead the base is being given to the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, so Ukraine can restart Antarctic research after losing access to former Soviet bases.

Under the terms of the recent Antarctic environment protocol, old bases must be dismantled and removed. The handover will save £1 million in dismantling costs. Ukraine has agreed to give British scientists free data for at least a decade.

The British Antarctic Survey, which ran Faraday, has four remaining bases, at Rothera, Halley, Signy and Bird Island. It said the loss of Faraday did not mark a rundown in research, as other bases are being expanded to accommodate more scientists with £4 million of government cash.

Today the final party of British staff sets sail on *HMS Endurance*, the ice patrol vessel. The base will be renamed Vernadsky.

There was speculation yesterday that one of Russia's Antarctic bases is to be temporarily closed to save cash, putting at risk an international drilling experiment to take ice samples dating back 300,000 years.



One in three 'unhappy' with mobile telephones

BY ROBIN YOUNG

DISSATISFACTION is rife among mobile phone users, according to a survey published today by the Consumers' Association.

It says customers are obliged to sign lengthy contracts with unreliable networks for phones that often cut off in mid-call. Researchers found that almost three quarters of those paying for mobile phones had experienced problems, while nearly four out of ten said they would hand their mobile back, change tariff or move network if they could do so without financial penalty.

More than a third of 2,891 respondents to the survey were dissatisfied with at least one crucial aspect of the service. Their complaints included being cut off for no apparent reason, failing to connect to their network or having to have the mobile phone repaired.

There are more than five million users of mobile phones in Britain and the four competing networks — Cellnet, Mercury one2one, Orange and Vodafone, — expect to add at least another three million users this year.

Overall, customers of Mercury one2one and the Vodafone analogue network were found to be unhappiest, while those with Orange were least dissatisfied.

Heart tests focus on importance of anger

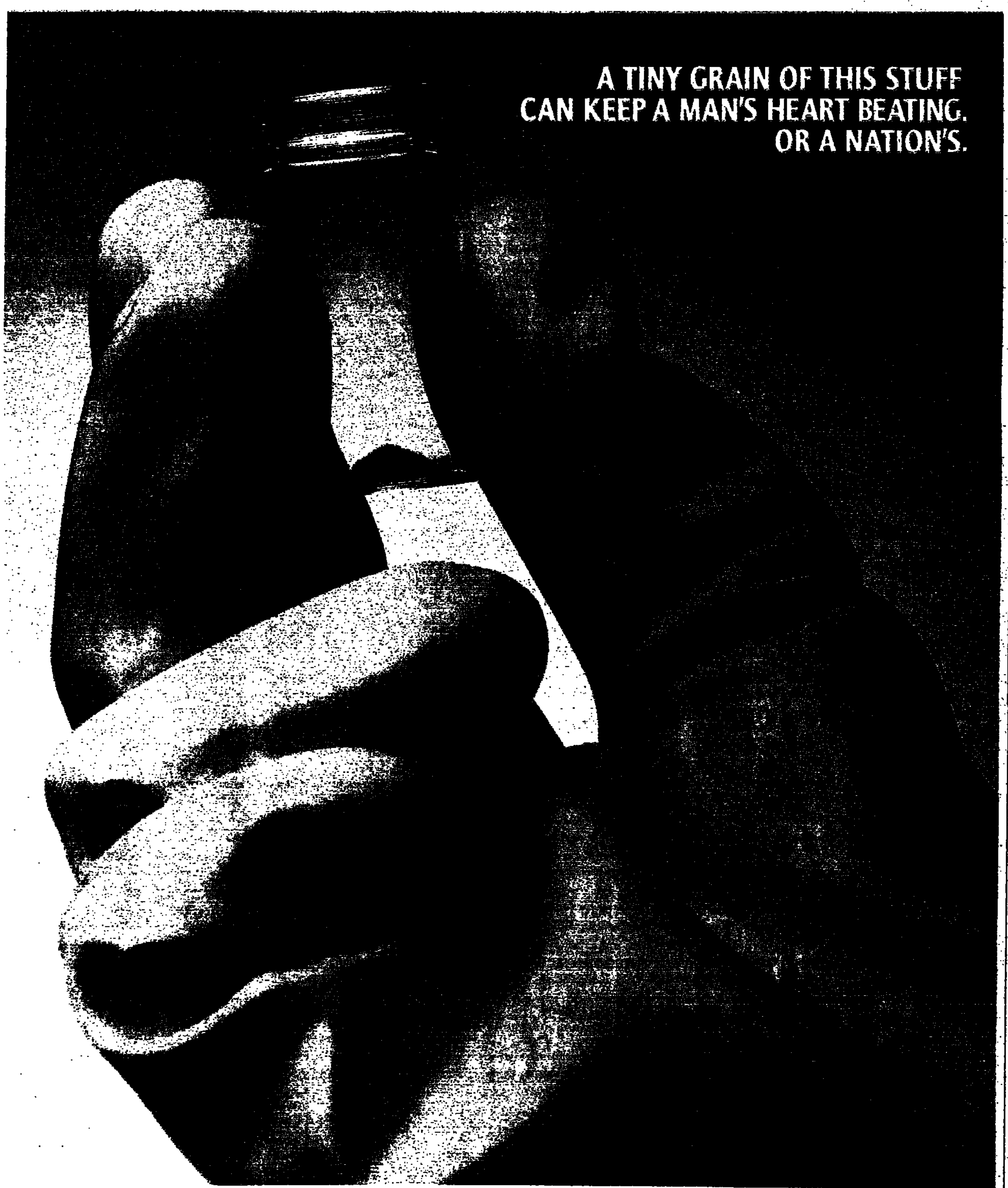
BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS are to try to discover if angry people are more likely to have heart attacks. In the first British study on links between personality and heart disease, researchers are to measure levels of hostility in 1,300 men and women aged 60 to 80 and compare the results with heart problems suffered by them.

Personality tests will measure neuroticism, extroversion, conscientiousness and agreeableness. A separate questionnaire will look at how people deal with anger and the extent to which they express or suppress hostile feelings.

Research dating back to the 1960s has tried to show that people with a "type A" personality are more prone to heart attacks. Type "A" people are characterised by aggressive and impatient actions, rapid emphatic speech and competitiveness. The link has never been proved but interest has focused on hostility as the key element in the type A personality that predisposes people to suffer heart attacks.

The £37,000 study will be funded by the British Heart Foundation. Professor Brian Pentecost, of the foundation, said: "A proper understanding of the psychological factors which predispose to heart disease is central to any programme of prevention."



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Teachers told to put Schubert before pop to save heritage

Schools must not blur boundary of culture, says curriculum chief

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

Cult or culture: Damon Albarn, lead singer of the group Blur, and Schubert

SCHOOLS must introduce their pupils to high culture and help them to escape the growing creed that sees no difference between Schubert and Blur, Nicholas Tate, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, said yesterday.

Dr Tate, who recently called for a new moral code to be taught in schools, yesterday attacked "cultural relativism" and "romantic individualism" for encouraging children to place equal value on Milton and Mills & Boon, or Vermeer's *View of Delft* and Damien Hirst's dead sheep.

British heritage, and with it the notion of strong communities and shared values, was in danger of disintegrating unless teachers actively transmitted it. Just as Dr Tate wants children to be taught right from wrong, they should learn which works of art, music and literature are better than others. The revised national curriculum already insists, for example, that children should read two Shakespeare plays before the age of 14 and learn mainly British history.

But Dr Tate, launching a three-day conference called *Curriculum, Culture and Society*, proposed a series of "big ideas" to clarify the purpose of the national curriculum. He said: "A fundamental purpose of the school curriculum is to transmit an appreciation of and commitment to the best of the culture we have inherited. We need a more active sense of education as preserving and transmitting, but in a way that is forward looking, the best of what we have inherited from the past."

Dr Tate challenged the growing trend towards multimedia study by saying books must remain the medium of the future. Other "big ideas" included grounding the curriculum in ancient Greece and Rome, Christianity and European civilisation, and ensuring that "English English", not some watered-down modern version, was taught.

"The final big idea is that we should aim to develop in young people a sense that some works of art, music, literature or architecture are more valuable than others," he said. "By the post-modern view there are no differences in value between, say, Schubert's *Ave Maria* and the latest Blur release, or between Milton and Mills & Boon.

"The final big idea therefore is that a key purpose of the curriculum is to introduce young people to some of the characteristics of what traditionally has been known as 'high culture', the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. I am not saying that young people should spend all their time studying Jane Austen and Shakespeare or listening to Bach and Mozart. What I am suggesting is that we, their educators, should give these things their proper value as, in the words of Matthew Arnold, 'the best that has been known and thought'."

Other speakers opposed Dr Tate's belief. Raphael Samuel, head of history at Ruskin College, Oxford, said: "History is an argument about the past as well as a record of it. Its excitements are that it introduces children to the unfamiliar and the exotic. Lessons should be devised to encourage children to disagree and to question.

"I think the whole thought of transmitting heritage runs against the spirit of cultural inquiry. Memory-keeping and respect for the past are things historians ought to have regard to but I do not think that is what history lessons should be about."

Anne Barnes, chief executive of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said teachers constantly emphasised the difference between high culture and popular works. "Nobody disputes that Milton is better than Mills & Boon. Everybody wants all children to be introduced to Milton but if they bring Mills & Boon into the classroom then that has to be discussed in its own terms."

Bishop David Konstant, chairman of the Catholic Education Service, said the pluralist nature of society made it difficult to define a national culture. "We should be encouraging unity by developing a proper understanding of the value of difference and of the need to reconcile differences peacefully," he said.

Nicholas Tate, page 18

CHRIS ISON

Chantelle Coleman, who tells her father English is too easy

Girl's feat speaks volumes

By Bill Frost

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl from Wales has taught herself to speak German in six weeks. Chantelle Coleman, from St Athan, South Glamorgan, Mensa's second youngest member, is said to have an IQ of 152.

When an Austrian magazine heard Chantelle had joined Mensa, a reporter came to interview her in December. "She had never heard a foreign language and was fascinated," her mother Margaret, 28, said. "She started to repeat the German words, then wanted to know what they meant.

"She asks for her breakfast in German every morning. I tell her to speak English but she hands me her German phrasebook and tells me to look up what she says."

Her father Alan, 28, taught her to count in German and the few words he learnt in the RAF. "After that we had to buy her a phrasebook and tapes," Mr Coleman said. "It's like having a foreigner for a daughter. She has mastered English and says it's too easy."

Axel Riche, lecturer in German at the University of Wales, said: "German is one of the most difficult languages to learn for English speakers. She must have remarkable intelligence to pick up the language so quickly."

Universities' threat of entrance fee wins no concessions from minister

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

THE Government refused to give in yesterday to vice-chancellors' threat of a £300 entrance fee for undergraduates and ruled out an early commitment to an expanded student loans system.

Eric Forth, the Higher Education Minister, accused universities of ignoring the practical difficulties of their plans. The minister also questioned the need for more higher-education places when the present recruiting freeze ended.

The vice-chancellors' proposal for an entry fee to be introduced in 1997 was prompted by budget cuts. They believe that students must pay a greater share of university costs, aided by "income-contingent" loans repaid over a long period. But Mr Forth told a Tory conference in London: "One of the things that slightly irritates me about the debate that we are now hearing is the idea that if you say 'income-contingent loan' sufficiently frequently, the problems will go away."

Mr Forth, who is responsible for a government review of higher education launched more than a year ago, said questions remained unanswered. Among them was whether further university expansion would benefit the economy and could be sustained without damaging the quality of education.

Other options for increasing the skills of the workforce would be to channel teenagers into further education colleges or work-based vocational training. "There is a very interesting discussion to be had around what proportion of the population can reasonably be expected to benefit from what we define as higher education," Mr Forth said.

Nearly a third of young people now go on to higher education. The Conservative Political Centre, which organised the conference, called for the proportion to increase, with the costs met by replacing student grants with a system of privatised loans.

Sir Cyril Taylor, chairman of the City Technology Colleges Trust and one of the authors of the report, said there would be pressure for more university places from the growing numbers taking A levels. "I don't think it is part of Conservative philosophy to deny people that opportunity, provided that standards are maintained."

Clive Booth, vice-chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said Mr Forth had been badly briefed if he believed there were doubts about the practicality of the universities' proposals.

Government policy also came under attack from Sir Eric Ash, chairman of the Student Loans Company, who described the privatisation plans before Parliament as "unnecessarily complicated". Sir Eric said it would have been better for a consortium of financial institutions to take over the company, rather than trying to set up a new network.

Aid worker accused of taking baby

A BRITISH charity worker has been charged with smuggling a baby out of Romania. John Boast is alleged to have taken the 15-month-old girl from a hospital in Oradea last year and illegally transported her to Britain.

The child was found last year in northeastern Britain in the custody of an English family.

Mr Boast, 47, who works for the Great Harwood charity, denies the charge. He faces up to five years in jail if convicted. The trial is expected to start on March 1.

Appeal defeat for the jealous killer who changed her story

A JAILED axe murder who originally denied the killings ten years ago failed yesterday in an attempt to claim a new defence of diminished responsibility.

Heather Arnold, now 59, had changed her story about the deaths of a teaching colleague's wife and child, but it was not credible that a court would believe her, Lord Justice Hobhouse said at the Court of Appeal.

A claim of diminished responsibility was available at the time of her murder trial, but instead she put forward an alibi. A jury at Bristol Crown Court had found her guilty of the 1986 murders of Jeanne Sutcliffe and Heidi, her baby, at Westbury, Wiltshire.

Years later, during counselling, she told psychiatrists that she had been depressed and "hated" Mrs Sutcliffe, whom she believed was trying to stop her being closer to Paul Sutcliffe, a fellow mathematics teacher at Warminster.

Dr Dilys Jones, leading consultant psychiatrist at Broadmoor top security hospital, said in a 1993 report that Arnold should appeal against conviction because it would be more appropriate for her to be managed under the Mental Health Act rather than as a life prisoner.

Lord Justice Hobhouse, sitting with Mr Justice Laws and Mr Justice Butterfield, said they were being asked to substitute verdicts of "not guilty of murder, guilty of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility" or order a retrial. However, he said: "It is clear that she is not a person who can be treated as credible in the present matter."

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The Cauldron Bistro, High St, Swanage, Dorset, two-course lunch, W, Th, F, S, Sun, Tel: 01929 422671.
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هكذا فن الاهمل

Immigration tribunal declares millionaire's adopted son is young man of promise

Nepalese heir to fortune 'should not be deported'

By Joanna Bale

A FORMER mountain boy from Nepal, heir to an 18th-century castle and a £1.5 million fortune, should be allowed to stay in Britain, an immigration tribunal said yesterday.

Jay Khadka, 19, was rescued from poverty by Richard Morley, a millionaire businessman, to honour a pact with the teenager's dead father. The tribunal concluded that "there would be little sense" in deporting Jay, although the final decision rests with the Home Office.

The appeal heard evidence from four members of a community set up by Mr Morley at Clearwell Castle in the Forest of Dean, where he and Jay live. The members, including Mr Morley's girlfriend, Helen Thomas, testified that Jay had become Westernised and that it would be a tragedy if he were to be deported. The appeal report said: "They told us that Jay was the heir apparent to the leadership of the community. There is not the slightest danger that Mr Khadka would ever become a burden on public funds."

The report said the tribunal had been impressed by Jay's readiness to admit he would visit his family in Nepal, but added that having to live there would be traumatic for him after his experiences in Britain. "He appears a young man of promise and it would be regrettable if that promise were to be fundamentally affected by a legal process over which, in our view, he has probably had little control."

Mr Morley, 41, who has brought up Jay as his son since July 1990, said yesterday that he would leave Britain for Nepal if Jay were deported. "This is not a question of wealth or bureaucracy, but of human relationships. I therefore call upon the Government to accept the recommendations," he said.

Mr Morley said that Jay should be given indefinite leave to remain in Britain under "exceptional compassionate circumstances", which would make him eligible for citizenship after five years.

Jay, who speaks perfect English and worked as head chef at the castle's former hotel, said: "I have grown up here, been educated and now have close family and friends. If I went back to Nepal I would be isolated from my family and people there might not be able to understand me. It would be heartbreaking."

The two met after Mr Morley punctured a lung in a climbing accident in Nepal in 1984. Jay's father Basu, a policeman, trekked for three days through the mountains to seek help.

Mr Morley offered him money as a reward, but he refused and, instead, made him promise that he would care for Jay when he died. The former naval officer, who made his fortune in computers, returned to Nepal in 1990 after the death of Basu and found Jay working in a stone mine in a mountain village. He spoke no English.

Jay lived first at Mr Morley's seafront flat in Margate, Kent. Mr Morley, a widower, bought Clearwell Castle in 1994. The teenager was educated at home, reading Dickens, Orwell and Homer. He also studied fine art and classical music.

Mr Morley, who has no children, has made Jay heir to his fortune, which includes a £220,000 flat in Bloomsbury, the Margate apartment, an art collection, and a 5,000-book library at the castle.

Mr Morley said: "Jay was born under extremely auspicious religious circumstances, predicted by a guru in a Buddist temple. He was born at a precise moment when the stars were in their maximum ascendency and the moon was in the lowest point during the festival of the goddess Kali."

MARTIN BEDDALL

Jay Khadka with Richard Morley after the tribunal supported their appeal

Old soldier knifed man for insult on VJ-Day

By A Staff Reporter

A VETERAN of the Burma campaign walked free from court yesterday after he admitted stabbing a man who provoked him as he was commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of VJ-Day.

Edward Field, 71, a member of the Burma Star Association, had come to the Old Bailey with his campaign medals. He wept in the dock as he was given a two-year suspended jail sentence for wounding John McKenna, 40.

The incident happened after both men, who knew each other slightly, had been drinking. The court was told that Field was insulted when he tried to pass Mr McKenna and a friend in the street. This added to his feelings of humiliation over remarks about his army service made by Mr McKenna earlier.

Field, of Chertsey, Surrey, lashed out with a knife. "His feelings were like a time-bomb," Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC, said. Mr McKenna suffered minor injuries and was discharged from hospital the next morning.

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Cost cutting forces closure of political correctness units

By Ian Murray

THREE council departments set up to counter discrimination and promote political correctness are being disbanded as part of a city's economy drive.

Birmingham will save £1.5 million a year by scrapping the units, which had a staff of 73 covering women's affairs, race relations and equal opportunities. They will be merged into one central equalities policy unit with a workforce of 21. Surplus staff will be redeployed to other departments.

The women's and race relations units were set up 12 years ago and grew steadily in size and influence despite widespread criticism of their activities. Among ideas for which they were responsible were a Christmas with no religious symbols, to avoid the risk of offending ethnic minorities, and a £150,000 festival of racial tolerance.

The women's unit organised an annual £100,000 women's festival, which included events for bringing together lesbians with disabilities and a history of black lesbians.

In an attempt to make staff aware of prejudice, social service consultants were called in and advised that white staff should wear badges saying "I am a racist". The council spent thousands of pounds employing interpreters to translate English into pidgin for residents who speak Caribbean patois.

The women's unit issued an instruction that all females between 50 and 70 should be referred to as "women elders" in council documents.

Pressure to get rid of the departments built up last year when they were spared cuts imposed on frontline services, including old people's homes, libraries and swimming pools. The need to make further economies this year because of the Government's tight rein on local authority spending has forced the city's controlling Labour group to take a decision to abolish them.

Brenda Clarke, the councillor who has been chairing a working party into the future of the units, said that they had done valuable pioneering work. "Their achievements have been real and measurable despite the often negative publicity from some parts of the media," she said.

Bargain buyer finds vacuum-packed gold

By Paul Wilkinson

A BARGAIN hunter who bought a second-hand vacuum cleaner for £2.65 was not too surprised when it blew up the first time he used it. But when Mike Thornton set about repairing it, he was stunned to find the dust bag contained gold jewellery worth at least £7,000.

Sparkling among the dirt were 17 gold rings, bracelets, necklaces, religious pendants and other gold trinkets. The hoard has been returned to its original owner and Mr Thornton, a maintenance engineer from Doncaster, South Yorkshire, has received a £100 reward for his honesty.

Police traced the cleaner to a woman who lived 40 miles away in Nottingham and had used it as a hiding place for family treasures. When they moved house, her daughter dumped the cleaner in a skip. By the time her distraught mother discovered what had happened, a scavenger was recycling it in a saleroom.

Mr Thornton said yesterday: "I couldn't believe my eyes when I opened it up and all this gold just dropped on to the floor."

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Ministers accused of discrediting arms-to-Iraq report

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats accused the Government yesterday of a black propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting the findings of the Scott inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, called on John Major to declare his confidence in Sir Richard Scott's impartiality and to repudiate the attacks by Lord Howe of Aberavon and Douglas Hurd. Mr Cook predicted a week of intensive Government "spinning" and "dumping on civil servants by ministers" while everyone else was kept in the dark about the report's contents.

A team of up to 17 government officials formed to respond to the report began work yesterday afternoon after receiving copies in advance of its publication. David Gould, a former senior Ministry of Defence official, is in charge of co-ordinating the operation and briefing ministers.

Mr Cook claimed that the response was being dictated by party political considerations. "The Government effort is not invested in promoting the public interest but in protecting ministers' interests," he said.

With a week still to go before publication, Westminster is already captivated by the report, which threatens the careers of at least two ministers, William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General.

As rumour and counter-rumour circulated in the Commons bars and tearooms last night, most observers believed that whatever gloss was put upon the report, it promised very bad news for the Government. The Liberal Democrat Menzies Campbell said: "If they thought Sir Richard was going to pat Lyell and Waldegrave on the back this campaign of denigration would not be happening."

Mr Cook said he feared that the report would be selectively leaked by government sources who felt "free to do so knowing no one can tell if they are telling the truth".

Labour is anxious to keep the focus on what it regards as the key issues: whether the guidelines on exports to Iraq were changed and whether ministers deceived Parliament about the policy on defence sales to Saddam Hussein.

Mr Cook said that in 1989 Mr Waldegrave, then a junior Foreign Office Minister, had signed 27 letters to MPs assuring them that the Government had not changed its policy on defence sales to Iraq. "If the Scott report concludes that those letters were not true and that Mr Waldegrave was in a position to know they were not true, he must go."

The other main issue is whether Sir Richard concludes that ministers were prepared to allow innocent men in the Matrix Churchill trial to go to jail rather than to disclose secret documents to the court. Mr Cook said that if that was the conclusion the Government could not escape by sacrificing Sir Nicholas, who urged other ministers to sign the certificates witholding material vital to the defence. "The Government cannot pass the buck to Lyell as if he were a family solicitor who came up with the wrong advice. It was a collective policy."

Mr Cook also questioned why the Prime Minister, who set up the inquiry, was not presenting the report to the House himself. He said that Mr Major was seeking to "deflect the heat".

The Association of First Division Civil Servants was consulting its lawyers yesterday over the position of Whitehall officials criticised in the report. Liz Symons, general secretary, said: "It is not the senior people but our fear is that a few middle-ranking officials could be left carrying the can."

What Scott examined

January 1981: Cabinet overseas and defence committee discuss "how to exploit Iraq's promising market for arms exports."

October 1985: Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, tells MPs that Britain would not approve orders that would risk prolonging or exacerbate the Iran-Iraq war.

May 1987: Matrix Churchill tells MI5 that Iraq is using British machinery to make weapons.

January 1988: Alan Clark, Trade Minister, gives a "nod and a wink" to Matrix Churchill's machine tool exports knowing they would be used in Iraqi arms factories.

August 1988: Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

December 1988: Clark and William Waldegrave secretly agree to a "tilt" towards Iraq, relaxing guidelines on arms-related exports.

February 1989: Ministers agree to further exports to Iraq, knowing they would be used to make weapons.

November 1989: Mrs Thatcher tells MPs that "supplies of British defence equipment to Iraq and Iran continue to be governed by guidelines introduced in 1985".

April 1990: Customs seize pipes destined for "supergun".

July 31, 1990: Matrix Churchill told by DTI officials that last batch of machine tools cleared for export.

August 2, 1990: Kuwait invasion.

February 1991: Paul Henderson and two other colleagues from Matrix Churchill arrested.

November 1992: Matrix Churchill trial collapses. Major announces inquiry and Scott is appointed.

May 1993: Public hearings start.

October 1993: Waldegrave tells Scott there had been no change in export guidelines but admits "an understandable misunderstanding"

December 1993: Clark tells Scott that Waldegrave's evidence is "slightly Alice in Wonderland"

June 1995: Leaks of draft report show Waldegrave accused of "sophistry"

February 1996: Report completed

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: Foreign Office questions; Labour-initiated debates on rail privatisation and the "renewed threat of Post Office privatisation"; backbench debate on sanctions against Libya and Iraq. In the Lords: employment in financial services industries; overseas aid; Community Representation Bill, second reading.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Treasury ministers and the Prime Minister followed by debates on Welsh revenue support grant reports; Audit (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, remaining stages; Edgware General Hospital. In the Lords: Broadcasting Bill, committee; Deregulation (Fair Trading Act) (Amendment) (Merger Reference Time Limits) Order; Deregulation (Restrictive Trade Practices Act) (Amendment) (Time Limits) Order; Deregulation (Restrictive Trade Practices Act) (Amendment) (Variation of Exempt Agreements) Order.

THE OLD IRON MAIDEN OF MAASTRICHT

Redwood urges Major to stand against EMU

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR was on a collision course with Tory Euro-sceptics last night after the former minister John Redwood unveiled a hard-line manifesto for next month's summit on the future of the European Union.

Mr Redwood challenged the Prime Minister by saying that the pre-summit White Paper on European policy should oppose a single currency.

With increasing turmoil on the Continent over the practicality of launching economic and monetary union in 1999, Mr Major and his senior colleagues have decided to duck the issue in the White Paper. For tactical reasons, they have decided it would be better if Britain's partners took the lead in slowing down the Maastricht timetable for a single currency.

But yesterday Mr Redwood, backed by leading Euro-sceptic MPs, said that it was time the Government came off the fence. Publishing his own version of the White Paper, expected shortly before the inter-governmental conference in Turin on March 29, he said: "The UK should set out the case against an exclusive monetary union of a few countries in the centre, and the implausibility of a monetary union incorporating many states. Monetary union would be bad for Britain, bad for the excluded states and bad for France and Germany." Britain's task was to "voice fears" across the EU that a single currency would mean budget cuts, high interest rates, and too tight monetary policies.

Mr Redwood was supported by Bill Cash, one of the leaders of the Maastricht rebellion. "We should say 'No' to a single currency now," Mr Cash said. "We should do that in the White Paper because it is quite clear from all the events in Europe recently . . . that it is only by saying 'No' emphatically that we will be able to influence the direction in which Europe is going."

But senior ministers are taking the opposite tack, saying that Britain can maximise its influence over plans for a single currency by refraining from outspoken demands.

In another ominous development for Mr Major, the eight former whipless Tory rebels promised their own paper on the IGC next week, saying it would be more hardline than Mr Redwood's.

Mr Redwood, in his six-page paper, also called for curbs on the powers of the European Court of Justice, saying that it was time the High Court of Parliament reasserted its pre-eminence. He said that France and Germany were sometimes prepared to overrule the European court and that Britain might be pleasantly surprised if it sounded out the opinions of other states.

Both parties need to think again on the constitution

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The main parties want to make constitutional reform a centrepiece of the election campaign. But their approaches are flawed, in opposite ways. On the one hand, while the Tories' defence of the status quo is unconvincing, some of their queries about the Opposition's proposals are valid. On the other hand, while Labour is on strong ground in challenging current arrangements, there are many unresolved questions about their specific proposals.

Of the two cases put foward yesterday, the Tories' is the shakier. Brian Mawhinney tried to have it both ways. He proclaimed the glories of our institutions, invoking Disraeli to state that "under John Major's leadership, the Conservative and Unionist Party will fight tooth and nail for Britain's constitution". Yet, at the same time, Dr Mawhinney quoted Burke to argue that "a state without the means of some change is without the means of its conservation" and pointed to the Tory tradition of rolling constitutional reform. He cited the creation of the departmental select committees, the reduction of Government secrecy, the formation of the Nolan committee etc. This is a stronger record than is commonly recognised, but it undermines the Tory attempt to argue that Labour's proposals are "threatening" and amount to an attempt to "foist an entirely new constitutional order" which "would rip apart the United Kingdom".

The real argument is not *whether* there should be constitutional reform, but *what* form it should take. MORI's state of the nation polls have repeatedly shown that a big majority of the public is unhappy with the way Britain is governed. In part, this is because the Tories have been in office for so long, removing some of the normal checks and balances and increasing the powers of central government.

Tony Blair sought yesterday to move the debate away from the "chattering classes". He mostly avoided the absolutist language of the Charter 88 type of radical reformers. Throughout his lecture, he presented the argument for reform on a case-by-case basis and rejected the call of some Labour MPs for a Big Bang approach. He said there would not be "a Great Reform Bill which would attempt all this change at once". Reforms will be achieved "over a period of time".

Several of his specific proposals are likely to be popular and make sense, such as directly elected mayors for London and other large cities, creating a new elected authority for the capital and incorporating the European Convention of Human Rights into British law. The Tories would also be ill-advised to make a stand in defence of hereditary peers. The Lords has virtues as a revising chamber, and as a check on the Commons, but its present composition involves a heavy, and persistent, Tory bias.

Mr Blair, however, failed to address some key questions. There is strong demand for legislative devolution in Scotland, but there are implications for the Westminster Parliament — the number and role of Scottish MPs in the Commons — which Mr Blair ignored. Any devolution Bill will be a parliamentary nightmare unless Labour produces answers to these questions. He also made a gesture towards the Liberal Democrats in recognising more fully than he has in the past the strength of feeling about electoral reform and reaffirming his commitment to a referendum. But he repeated his own doubts about proportional representation, leaving a deliberate ambiguity.

The Tories may rally some disaffected former supporters by playing the constitutional/nationalist card, while Labour's reform agenda will appeal to the "time for a change" constituency. At present, both parties exaggerate, claiming that the constitution's survival depends on their victory. The Tories need to be less dogmatic and Labour has to address the flaws in its approach.

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Svetlana hopes to atone for sins of atheist father who slaughtered millions of Soviet citizens

Stalin's daughter seeks sanctuary by taking the veil

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AFTER a lifetime spent trying to escape the bloody legacy of her father, Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's only daughter, may finally have found a sanctuary for her tortured soul.

After the break-up of four marriages and the futile search over three continents for a permanent home, the restless daughter of the Soviet dictator and the century's most ruthless atheist has retreated behind the walls of a Roman Catholic convent.

Now aged 70, she has reportedly decided to live out her remaining years as a nun, in her words to "atone for the sins of my father", who is blamed for the murder of an estimated 21 million Soviet citizens.

The disclosure appeared in the popular Italian weekly *Chi*, which published letters by Svetlana to her spiritual adviser, Father Giovanni Garbolino. In one letter, written while she was still undergoing training in Britain, she described how she looked forward to making her peace with the world once she had taken her vows.

"I shall be 70 when I take the veil," she wrote. "Finally, I will be able to become a nun. I am sure that God has called me to be closer to Him at this particular time, for it is inside the convent's walls that I acquired the peace for which I have been longing all my life and the hope which I had lost."

If she has indeed found peace of mind it will be the end of a lifelong search to escape the haunting shadow cast by her father's legacy. Although Svetlana does have some happy memories of her childhood, when Stalin appeared as a loving and devoted father, her life was jolted when she was aged six by the suicide of her mother, Nadezhda.

Alliluyeva: 'a heavy life'

As Svetlana grew up, so the truth about her father's character emerged, most shockingly when she was a teenager and he sent her first love to the camps. Passionate and unpredictable, she married twice in quick succession and had two children before she caused an international incident by travelling to India in 1967 on a two-week visit and applied to immigrate.

Although India feared jeopardising its ties with the Soviet Union, a compromise was found when she was offered a new home in America. She caused an instant sensation by her anti-Soviet views at the height of the Cold War.

She settled down in Princeton, married an architect named Wesley Peters, and although she was aged 46 gave birth to her third child, Olga. In 1972 the marriage collapsed and Svetlana went to live in Britain, where her daughter went to school.

However, when reforms got under way in the Soviet Union in the 1980s, Svetlana was drawn back to her homeland, where she spent a few unhappy years attempting to fit back into life, first in Moscow and then in Georgia, her father's homeland.

Once again the experiment had failed, and this time she sent her daughter to school in England while she attempted to hide from the world in a remote log cabin in rural Wisconsin. Eventually that, too, failed to live up to her expectations and she was last reported living penniless in an old people's hostel in west London.

This international nomad may now have found her peace, reportedly in a convent in the Swiss town of Fribourg, where her identity and her past will not be allowed to interfere with her new calling. Nevertheless, it is still doubtful that the cloisters and strict routine of convent life will by themselves be able to dispel the spectre of her father, which by her own admission rarely leaves her thoughts. Although she once told an interviewer that all she needed in life was to be left alone, it is not clear that solitude will suffice.

"It has been a heavy life," she once remarked. "Heavy to listen to, heavy to live."

As a child, Svetlana regarded Stalin as a loving and devoted father but when she grew up the truth about her father's real character emerged

US warns Moscow 'meddlers' in Poland

FROM PATRICIA KOZA
IN WARSAW

THE US Assistant Secretary of State, Richard Holbrooke, issued a veiled warning to Russia yesterday not to interfere in Poland's affairs.

Mr Holbrooke, on a visit to Poland, was commenting on reports of meddling by the Russian intelligence services in the recent Polish elections and the forthcoming Czech elections. Jozef Oleksy, the Prime Minister, resigned on January 26 over allegations that he was a spy for Moscow, a scandal which many speculate was engineered to discredit Poland in the eyes of Nato.

Yesterday President Kwasniewski swore in a Polish Cabinet that retains Wlodzimierz Kaczmarek, the Privatisation Minister, who was under attack from the junior coalition partner, the Peasant Party.

Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, the Prime Minister, leads a 21-member Cabinet that includes seven members of the Democratic Left Alliance, eight from the Peasant Party and six non-party appointments.

The Peasant Party had wanted Mr Kaczmarek dumped to slow down the sale of state assets. However, a clause in the agreement, signed before the swearing-in, obliges Mr Kaczmarek "not to conduct privatisation at random". Jerzy Jaskiernia, the Justice Minister, was among those to quit the Government.

Cimoszewicz: leads new coalition Cabinet

Swiss in clash over Holocaust assets

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

JEWISH groups and the Swiss authorities engaged in a bitter clash yesterday over the amount of cash belonging to victims of the Holocaust which is allegedly being held in dormant bank accounts in Switzerland.

The row was sparked by a statement in Zurich by the Swiss Bankers Association, that a comprehensive survey had found the total in unclaimed assets from Holocaust victims and other foreign investors was estimated at $32 million (£21 million), a figure much lower than that estimated by international Jewish experts.

The World Jewish Congress issued a stinging response, describing the statement as "a failure of moral responsibility to the victims of the Holocaust, the survivors and their families". Edgar Bronfman, the president of the congress, said: "Contrary to the undertakings given to us, the Swiss statement was made unilaterally and is unacceptable."

At a press conference in Zurich, Jean-Paul Chapuis, general secretary of the association, said of the investigation launched last September: "The rumours about huge assets hidden in Swiss banks belonging to Holocaust victims are totally unfounded."

The Swiss estimate is paltry compared with claims by Jewish experts about the figures involved. The Israeli business daily *Globes* estimated that the amount involved was £4.3 billion. Priceless works of art and jewellery are also believed to be among the wartime legacy stashed away in safe-deposit boxes by the Nazis after their Jewish owners were killed.

"After 50 years we would have hoped for greater sensitivity on the part of the Swiss bankers and the Swiss Government and are waiting for a more appropriate response," Mr Bronfman said. "The Swiss bankers have not met the test of being transparent."

Cyprus tells British Army to cease fire

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE British Army has been asked to stop shelling one of Cyprus's most beautiful and unspoilt areas as the island's Government plans to declare it a national park.

The "bombardment" must end, Alecos Michaelides, the Foreign Minister, said. Cyprus was "discussing the issue at the highest level with Britain", he added.

The 1960 treaty that gave Cyprus its independence also gave Britain two sovereign bases covering 99 square miles and rights for live firing in several areas — including the rugged Akamas peninsula on the west coast. The area, north of the tourist resort of Paphos, is one of the Mediterranean's last natural woodlands, while its pristine beaches are some of the few where green turtles breed.

The army insists its use of the peninsula, where it is entitled to practise 70 days a year, has saved the area from the developers' bulldozers. A British spokesman, said even the grazing of goats was a "greater threat" to the peninsula than "carefully regulated military training".

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Vincent Van Gogh, *Portrait of Alexander Reid*. Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

There is no crisis in the welfare state

BOOKS 34-35

Do prisons work or are they holiday camps?

SPORT 39-44

The female Gazza playing for more than kicks

GREAT PLANS FOR THE MILLENNIUM
Travel, 36-37

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

Tunnel rail link plan in turmoil

Funding problems and inquiry delay contract award

Young: kept informed

By Patricia Tehan and Jonathan Prynn

FINAL negotiations over the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link contract were plunged into turmoil yesterday when auditors were sent in to investigate alleged financial irregularities at the company that designed it.

The announcement came as the Department of Transport and London & Continental Railways (L&CR), its favoured bidder, were locked in talks over difficulties with funding arrangements.

With the contract due to be awarded within days, the investigation into Union Railways, a British Rail subsidiary, could not have been timed worse for the Government. Union Railways, which planned the 68-mile route, will be transferred to the successful bidder on April 1 after the contract has been signed.

Jim Butler, chairman of Union Railways, said that he had been told on Monday of "allegations of improper processes" within the company. "I have asked our auditors, Price Waterhouse, to conduct an investigation in these allegations and they have started this today," he said. "I have informed the Secretary of State for Transport, who has asked me to keep him abreast of the progress of the investigation."

The investigation centres on irregularities in the procurement of supplies such as stationery and printing materials and the sums involved are thought to be relatively small.

The announcement of the competition winner by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, is already a week overdue and is now unlikely to be made before the end of next week. Government concerns over the wording of L&CR's bank agreements are thought to be behind the delay. It has asked the L&CR to provide tighter assurances from its backers that the funding will be forthcoming when the contract is signed.

Ministers are happy with the bid submitted by L&CR as it asks for a lower government grant, which is paid later. However, there are concerns, in the wake of the Eurotunnel fiasco, over the consortium's debt-financing and its ability to raise an estimated £1 billion in equity finance next year.

Both bids contain a mix of equity and debt finance. However, with the L&CR bid there is believed to be a larger portion of equity finance — up to one third of the total cost — or around £1 billion. The rest would constitute up to £1 billion of bank debt, European funds and government subsidy.

Eurorail plans to raise 75 per cent of its £2 billion private financing in the form of bank debt, with 25 per cent from a placing of shares with institutional investors.

The partners in L&CR are Richard Branson's Virgin Group, National Express, Ove Arup, Bechtel and SBC Warburg, which is also acting as financial adviser.

The Eurorail partners are Trafalgar House, NatWest, BICC, HSBC, Seeboard and Crédit Lyonnais, advised by Kleinwort Benson.

Full funding would be required between March and September next year when the "Eurotunnel effect" is likely still to be blighting the market for Channel Tunnel projects.

The consortium has Citibank and UBS as its lead banks. Rabobank, the Dutch bank, was part of the banking group but pulled out quietly last summer. In spite of efforts last year to attract other banks, only Dresdner Bank and Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, the Japanese bank, have agreed to act as supporting banks.

Deutsche Bank, which was backing two earlier bids, looked at the project last summer but did not sign up and L&CR has failed to persuade any of the major UK banks to sign up to the project.

Eurorail's 10 supporting banks are ABN Amro, Banque Indosuez, Bayerische Landesbank, CIBC, Commerzbank, Industrial Bank of Japan, Kredietbank, Mitsubishi Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland and Swiss Bank Corp.

Battle for Lloyds Chemists hots up with German bid

By Sarah Bagnall

GEHE of Germany and UniChem are set to join in a fierce bid battle for control of Lloyds Chemist after Gehe's decision yesterday to enter the fray with a £584.3 million counter offer.

The cash offer from Gehe, Europe's largest drugs wholesaler, tops UniChem's rival £530 million cash and share offer launched last month. The announcement sent shares in Lloyds Chemists racing up, reflecting the City's belief that UniChem will raise its offer. Lloyds Chemists shares rose 23p to 467p — a new five-year high and above Gehe's offer of 450p a share. UniChem shares edged ahead 3p to 248p.

Allen Lloyd, founder and chairman of Lloyds Chemists, saw the value of his 7.5 per cent shareholding in the pharmacy group leap to about £44 million under Gehe's offer — £6 million more than under the terms of UniChem's offer.

UniChem's board urged Lloyds Chemists shareholders to sit tight and said it had "noted" Gehe's move and was "considering its response". Under UniChem's bid timetable it has until March 20 to revise its offer. The first closing date for the offer is next Wednesday.

City analysts said they thought UniChem could afford to lift its offer to about 480p a share, but any big rise in its offer would run the risk of undermining the value of its own share price.

Analysts said that they expected a bid battle for Lloyds Chemists, where Michael Ward is finance director, because neither Gehe nor UniChem would want to see the company in the others' hands. In the space of two decades, Mr Lloyd built the company up from a single pharmacy into Britain's second largest pharmacy chain with 924 outlets. He diversified into drug wholesaleing, a move that put pressure on rival pharmacy groups. UniChem and Lloyds Chemists both hold 30 per cent of the UK drugs wholesale market.

Kammerer: generous offer

Gehe, which is majority-owned by Franz Haniel, a private company, has been rapidly expanding its drug wholesale business in recent years. It entered the UK market last year with the £400 million acquisition of AAH. In 1993, it won a contested bid for OCP, a French company, in which it paid £325 million for a 95 per cent stake.

Dieter Kammerer, chairman of Gehe, said: "Our offer is generous and compares very favourably with the UniChem offer. Our offer reflects the potential enhancement of Lloyds Chemists's value, which would be realised through a combination of Lloyds Chemists with AAH." Gehe's offer represents an 11.4 per cent premium to UniChem's offer for Lloyds Chemists ordinary shares based on Tuesday's share prices. The offer is pitched at a 54.6 per cent premium to the Lloyds Chemists share price just before UniChem launched its bid.

Unichem's existing offer is agreed and comprises 232p cash plus four UniChem shares for every three Lloyds Chemists shares with a partial cash alternative.

Tempus, page 26.

Michael Ward, left, with Allen Lloyd are the bid targets

Frizzell Group sold to Liverpool Victoria

By Marianne Curphey

MARSH & McLENNAN, the world's largest insurance broker, has sold off Frizzell Group, its insurance unit, to Liverpool Victoria for £188 million — £81 million more than it paid for it three years ago.

Although the US group has invested £40 million since December 1992 in new technology and systems support, some analysts believe that Liverpool Victoria has paid too much.

Frizzell Group, which has its headquarters in Bournemouth, provides motor and household insurance, banking and independent financial advice.

The deal, which has been under negotiation for a couple of months, is expected to be completed by the middle of this year.

Liverpool Victoria said there was no overlap, since most of its business is door-to-door collections of premiums in the North of England and few of its customers had bank accounts.

But analysts questioned the wisdom of Liverpool Victoria trying to compete in an insurance market that was increasingly being dominated by direct insurers.

The mutual has 6.5 million policies on its books and assets of more than £3.5 billion. David Cheeseman, corporate strategy director, said the price was fair and sensible. He added: "In negotiating a price, we looked at the opportunities for growth which Frizzell would provide."

He said Liverpool Victoria was still interested in forming a joint venture, or making an acquisition or merger if the circumstances were right. There was, however, no question of demutualising: "We are committed to mutuality and we believe it is the best way forward."

Only since the beginning of the year have friendly societies been permitted to offer a banking service, and the mutual status of many building societies and friendly societies is under threat as they merge or are taken over.

M&M, which provides insurance and reinsurance services, has 25,000 employees worldwide and is quoted on both the London and New York stock markets. It has revenues from insurance of more than £1.8 billion per annum and has invested heavily overseas in the last 30 years.

Liverpool Victoria expects to widen Frizzell's distribution channels and add to its 500,000 motor and 200,000 household insurance customers using its existing customer base.

Roy Hurley, chief executive, said: "Frizzell and Liverpool Victoria are complementary businesses with similar customer values."

Fall in exports hits manufacturers

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

BRITAIN'S failing export performance is hitting manufacturers across the country, a new Confederation of British Industry survey of the UK's regional industrial trends showed yesterday.

At the national level, CBI evidence shows that manufacturers' total orders are falling as exports, which have driven the recovery, drop back.

But the confederation's latest regional trends survey shows that while the decline in orders overall is not yet hitting every region across the country, the fallback in exports is having a dampening effect in a range of areas.

The survey, published jointly with Business Strategies, the regional consultancy, shows that across the 11 economic regions of Britain in the three months to January there was either a "noticeable" slowdown in orders overall — or in four regions, a fall.

Orders fell in East Anglia particularly, with a balance of 26 per cent of companies — those reporting a rise in order set against those registering a fall — recording that orders are declining. Orders fell, though less spectacularly, in Yorkshire, the North and the West Midlands, and were flat in the South East and the North West.

The CBI said that, overall, orders had been dampened by weaker export growth, with exports from every region in Britain being worse in the three months to January than in the previous quarter.

Exports fell in East Anglia, Yorkshire and the North, with slower export growth in other areas leading to a stagnation in orders overall. But manufacturers in the South West, Scotland and Northern Ireland saw exports continuing to rise.

While future expectations across all the regions on both overall orders and exports are more optimistic than past performance, the CBI emphasised again that such expectations have not been fully realised for the last three surveys. The weakness of demand, combined with excessive stock levels, meant that output remained sluggish, with manufacturers in seven regions recording a slowdown or fall.

Despite an despite an overall decline in national optimism, business confidence levels varied significantly between regions, with firms in Northern Ireland, East Anglia, Scotland and the East Midlands indicating they were more optimistic than four months ago.

No sign of rate cut after Chancellor meets George

By Janet Bush, economics correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, appeared to have left interest rates unchanged after his meeting yesterday with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

There was no statement after the meeting and the Bank carried out its normal money market operations at unchanged rates. In spite of another rash of weak economic data in recent days, another rate cut was not expected after quarter-point cuts moves after both the December and January meetings.

Mr George expressed some reservations about the cut in December, strongly opposing a half-point move, and was studiously silent on the cut last month, prompting speculation that he disagreed with the Chancellor.

In these circumstances, the City would have been surprised if Mr Clarke had ordered yet another cut. However, there is still strong expectations that base rates will fall to 6 per cent from 6.25 per cent after the March meeting.

The Central Statistical Office yesterday published the latest cyclical indicators for the economy, showing that the longer leading index, supposed to signal turning points in the economy around a year ahead, is still falling.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3726.1	(-21.4)
Yield	3.85%	
FT-SE A All share	1832.41	(-7.00)
Nikkei	*20943.49*	*(+192.34)*
New York:		
Dow Jones	5456.72	(-2.89)*
S&P Composite	645.94	(-0.39)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	110[illegible]*	(110[illegible])
Yield	6.14%*	(6.13%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6[illegible]%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	109[illegible]	(108[illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5375*	(1.5420)
London:		
$	1.5363	(1.5411)
DM	2.2715	(2.2693)
FFr	7.8000	(7.7970)
SFr	1.8580	(1.8504)
Yen	162.87	(162.67)
£ Index	84.4	(84.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4787*	(1.4715)
FFr	5.0727*	(5.0555)
SFr	1.2082*	(1.1982)
Yen	106.18*	(105.20)
$ Index	95.9	(95.7)

Tokyo close Yen 105.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$16.15	($16.10)

GOLD

London close	$412.75	($410.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Oftel orders BT to stop unfair subsidies

By Eric Reguly

OFTEL, the telecommunications regulator, has directed BT to stop unfairly subsidising some of the services it provides to business customers.

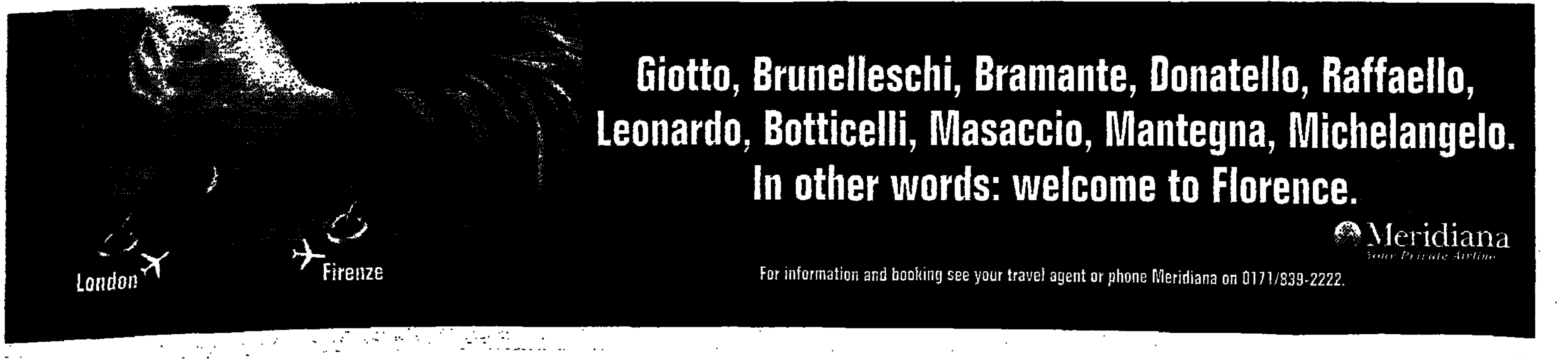
After a four-year investigation, Oftel determined that BT's rates of return from certain products offered by its managed network division were too low. In order to comply with the directive, BT must raise those rates of return to 15 per cent and will accomplish this by reducing costs, raising prices or a combination of both. BT said: "We disagree with Oftel's conclusions, but we will take the necessary steps to comply."

The network services division manages phone systems for corporate clients. Oftel said that the market is worth about £400 million a year. BT's share is thought to be about 40 per cent.

The investigation was triggered by complaints from Mercury Communications and a company affiliated with AT&T. The directive covers five products, such as low-speed data-transfer systems. Oftel also wants BT to keep detailed financial records to prove that managed network customers are being charged all relevant costs.

Oftel's directive follows a similar action in September, when it ordered BT to stop unfairly subsidising equipment sales such as fax machines and basic phones. BT had to raise the prices of these products. As a result, its equipment retailing activities have been severely curtailed.

Pennington, page 25
German alliance, page 25



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هكذا في الأصل

Morgan Crucible continues expansion

Morgan Crucible, the ceramics to materials group, has paid £14.5 million for an 80 per cent interest in Magna Industrial Company of Hong Kong.

Morgan Crucible, which spent £35 million on three US businesses in March 1995, has an option to buy the remaining 20 per cent of Magna, which mainly supplies speciality lubricants and maintenance chemicals through a worldwide network of distributors.

Senior grows

Senior Engineering, the manufacturer of tubing and thermal engineering components, has acquired Jackson Industries, an American business, for £5.1 million, and Habia Teknofluor of Sweden for £2.6 million. Both acquisitions are involved in making Teflon hose products and will form part of Flexonics, a Senior subsidiary.

Bank jobs cut

Bankgesellschaft Berlin, Germany's sixth largest bank, plans to cut 1,900 of its 16,900 workforce by the end of 1998. The bank said it proposes to focus on direct banking, telephone banking and discount broking.

Dispute ends

Airtours, the holiday company, said a legal dispute with the Aspro family arising from its acquisition of Aspro holidays in 1993 has been resolved, and a sum of money has been paid to Airtours. The company said the terms of the settlement remain confidential.

STUART HARRISON

Philip Bushill-Matthews, the managing director of Red MillSnack Foods, at the company's Midlands plant. Continental Foods, which acquired Red Mill in 1994, yesterday reported that pre-tax profits had increased to £807,000 from £432,000 for the half year to October 31. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.15p a share from 1p

Packard Bell gets $650m boost from NEC and Bull

By Graham Searjeant, financial editor

PACKARD BELL, the fast growing American personal computer maker, is to mount a challenge for the world market after an injection of $650 million in cash and businesses from its Japanese and European partners.

NEC, the Japanese combine that owns a fifth of Packard Bell, is to provide $280 million of extra capital in exchange for preference shares. Groupe Bull, the state-controlled French computer champion, is to sell Zenith Data Systems, its US-based personal computer business, to Packard Bell, likewise for preference shares.

Bull also owns a fifth of the US company and is in turn 17 per cent owned by NEC. The sale will help the commercial turnround of Bull, after what the European Commission insisted should be the last injection of state aid.

The double deal is aimed at giving Packard Bell enough cash to integrate the technically strong but financially vulnerable Zenith and to expand outside America. It should also cement the existing three-way alliance in technology, manufacturing and distribution and accelerate development of multimedia products.

Beny Alagem, founder and chief executive, has made Packard Bell the fourth biggest personal computer maker. In 1995, it supplied 3.1 million units and took 5.2 per cent of the world market. It ranks after Compaq Computer (10 per cent), IBM (8 per cent.) and troubled Apple Computers (7.8 per cent), with NEC itself ranking fifth.

Packard Bell's share depends heavily on the slower growing US market, where it dominates retail sales of personal computers sold through shops and is second only to Compaq in overall sales.

Adding Zenith's $1.3 billion will bring Packard Bell's annual sales to $5.5 billion and allow it to leapfrog Compaq to become US market leader, with about 13 per cent. Mr Alagem aims to have his company's shares quoted in America soon.

Packard Bell has low-cost manufacturing plants, including a French factory that makes frames for Bull. In future, NEC may share more Packard Bell production facilities outside Japan.

Adding Zenith, plus closer co-operation with NEC, should also enable it to widen and to upgrade its product range. Zenith has a new range of laptop computers selling into the French public sector market and the American corporate market.

Pennington, page 25

Singapore to join in talks on jet project

By Ross Tieman
Industrial correspondent

SINGAPORE is to join a Chinese-led consortium in talks with British Aerospace and other European planemakers about developing a 100-seat passenger jet.

Inclusion of Singapore Technologies Aerospace (ST Aero) in the $2 billion project will reinforce the technical capabilities of the Asian partners as the Europeans appear set to beat Boeing of America in the beauty contest being conducted from Peking.

Boeing's launch of the 737-600 aircraft last year, targeted at the same market segment, and its inclusion of Japanese partners on the larger Boeing 777 programme appears to have undermined its credibility as a potential partner.

But with Fokker now in administration, the European consortium, comprising BAe, Aérospatiale of France, and Alenia of Italy is clear favourite to take a 20 per cent stake in a programme expected to sell 1,000 aircraft worth $20 billion.

According to an ST Aero official quoted by Reuter, Aviation Industries of China (AVIC) and ST Aero "will work together to select a Western partner". The comment appears to undermine the role of Korean partners, whose demands for a second production line and a 35 per cent stake in the project have been cold-shouldered by the Chinese Government.

However, efforts to keep the Koreans involved, as a components supplier, will continue to reduce the prospect that they will build a rival aircraft.

☐ Rolls-Royce has secured a $150 million order for Trent 800 engines to power six Boeing 777 sub-jumbo jets ordered by Singapore Aircraft Leasing, a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines.

[illegible]

US trade deficit falls to 18-month low

AMERICA'S deficit on goods and services fell sharply in November to its lowest level for more than 18 months, largely reflecting weaker imports as the economy slowed down last year and softness in the dollar which helped US exporters. The deficit plunged by 13.5 per cent to $7.06 billion from a revised shortfall of $8.16 billion in October and compared with Wall Street expectations of a deficit of $8.3 billion.

Exports rose 0.9 per cent in the month, while imports fell 0.7 per cent. The politically-sensitive deficit with Japan fell 13.6 per cent to $4.13 billion in November, the lowest that it has been for more than two-and-a-half years. America's merchandise trade deficit, which excludes services, fell to $12.5 billion from $13.7 billion in October, while its surplus on services, such as travel and tourism, narrowed to $5.4 billion from $5.6 billion. Some economists expressed concern that the huge improvement in the trade performance may be another sign of the weakness of the domestic economy which is continuing to hit imports.

Govett counter claim

AMERICAN ENDEAVOUR, a US investment group, said that the Govett Group had filed an answer in the Royal Court of Jersey to its damages claim. The Govett Group, now owned by Allied Ireland Bank, also filed a $450 million counter claim to the effect that American Endeavour's actions had cost the group the purchase of Duff and Phelps, an American broker firm, and a subsequent loss in value. The orginal claim accused Govett Group and Arthur Treuger, its chairman, of fraud and mismanagement of American Endeavour funds.

German jobless rise

UNEMPLOYMENT in Germany is expected to rise above the four million mark, as well as the 10 per cent level, according to figures due to be published today but reported in the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper yesterday. The newspaper said that non-seasonally adjusted unemployment in Germany rose by 368,336 to a record 4.158 million in January. The report also said that the unemployment rate rose to 10.8 per cent from 9.9 per cent in December.

Angerstein savings

ANGERSTEIN Underwriting Trust, reporting its first financial results since acquiring Delian Lloyd's Investment Trust, said it expects savings of £500,000 to arise in the first year following the merger, increasing to £650,000 in subsequent years. Angerstein reported net revenue of £1.65 million after tax for the half-year to November 30, an increase of 12.1 per cent over the first half of the previous year. The net asset value has increased 7.9 per cent to 98.88p a share. There is an interim dividend of 1.1p a share, up from 0.8p.

Inquiry into Scania aid

THE European Commission has launched an inquiry into Fr24 million of state subsidies offered to Scania, the Swedish lorrymaker, as part of Fr50 million aid to build an assembly plant in Angers in northwest France. The EC said it had serious doubts about the use of the funds. In 1990 the Commission approved aid of Fr190 million to Scania, then called Saab-Scania. But Scania dropped the project after receiving Fr50 million in 1992. French authorities last month said Scania would return Fr26 million plus interest.

IT group's shares dive

SHARES in Learmonth & Burchett Management Systems, the information technology group, slumped 174p from 323p after it told shareholders that it was continuing to incur losses because of a shortfall in revenue. Learmonth, which lost £5.25 million before tax in the financial year to April 30, 1995, said that it would report a net loss in the three months to January 31. The company said that the shortfall in revenue was related primarily to business outside the US and training service revenues worldwide.

Headlam rights issue

HEADLAM GROUP, the distributor of floor coverings and fabrics, is raising £18.3 million through a rights issue to fund two acquisitions. The company is to buy Mercado Holdings, a UK distributor of carpets, for up to £11 million, and Malie Group, a Dutch carpets and soft furnishings business, for £9.7 million. Headlam is offering one new share for every four held at 185p each. Existing shares rose 8p to 220p. Headlam estimates that 1995 profits were not less than £7.7 million before tax, rising from £5.8 million in 1994.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.14	1.98
Austria Sch	16.99	15.49
Belgium Fr	49.71	45.41
Canada $	2.216	2.058
Cyprus Cyp£	0.782	0.707
Denmark Kr	9.41	8.61
Finland Mkk	7.56	6.91
France Fr	8.22	7.57
Germany Dm	2.43	2.22
Greece Dr	398.00	371.00
Hong Kong $	12.54	11.54
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2100	4.5800
Italy Lira	2532.00	2377.00
Japan Yen	177.10	161.10
Malta	0.595	0.540
Netherlds Gld	2.699	2.469
New Zealand $	2.43	2.21
Norway Kr	10.52	9.72
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.36
Spain Pta	198.50	185.50
Sweden Kr	11.42	10.62
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	refer	93126.0
USA $	1.636	1.508

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Rivals show interest in Coal Investments

By Ross Tieman, industrial correspondent

EFFORTS to rescue Coal Investments, the mining group apparently forced into administration by a cash-flow crisis, gathered pace yesterday.

John Talbot, Murdoch McKillop and Peter Tuch, administrators from Arthur Andersen received a large number of expressions of interest from rivals and potential buyers. RJB Mining, Britain's largest coal producer, said it was watching the situation, and expressed sympathy for CI's 1,500 miners and staff.

But industry sources point out that RJB, which bought all of the producing English coalmines of state-owned British Coal in December 1994, declined to take on four of CI's six pits at that time.

Nor does RJB have any shortage of capacity: rather, it would benefit from the loss of a competitor in a market facing further falls in demand.

The administrators are understood to be exploring whether it is possible to rescue part of Britain's second-largest mining group through a voluntary arrangement among creditors. That would probably involve a sale of some assets and a subsequent capital reconstruction through a debt-for-equity swap.

Goldsmiths forges link with NU

GOLDSMITHS GROUP, the jewellery retailer, has linked up with Norwich Union, the insurer, to provide replacement jewellery and watches to the company's claimants.

Norwich Union customers who have jewellery or watches stolen will be expected in most cases to find a replacement at Goldsmith shops, which include the Walker & Hall stores.

Until now, Norwich Union has settled most claims with cash, leaving policyholders free to buy replacements wherever they chose.

Prudential results take new format

By Marianne Curphey

PRUDENTIAL, the UK's largest insurance company, will in future include details of short-term investment gains in assets held in the money markets when it reports half and year-end results, the company said yesterday.

Under a new European Union directive, which affects all EU insurers, two sets of performance figures must be reported. The first is operating profit, which has been used in previous results to show investment gains smoothed out over a five-year period. The second is pre-tax profit, which must include gains made either on paper or through selling stocks over a one-year period.

Jim Jack, group financial director, said payments to UK with-profits policyholders or shareholders are affected because the accounting changes are purely cosmetic.

The aim of the directive is to bring into line the accounts of all participating EU insurers so that a UK company's results are compiled in the same way as those of a French or German company.

The Prudential, which yesterday reissued its 1994 full-year results and 1995 half-year results, said operating profit would most reliably reflect underlying performance.

Under the new system, total operating profit to 1994 was £693 million (£603 million under the old system), while pre-tax profit was £358 million (£603 million). A half-year 1995 operating profit of £304 million becomes £390 million, while pre-tax profit rises from £335 million to £499 million.

GOLD FIELDS PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED

[illegible]

Preliminary Announcement of Audited Results

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT	Year ended 31 Dec 1995 R000	Year ended 31 Dec 1994 R000
Revenue		
Income from rent and sale of property	13 859	11 794
Surplus on realisation of investments and fixed assets	692	7 734
Interest received	715	72
Gold royalties and income from other sources	1 183	1 092
Income from investments	1 041	1 070
	17 490	21 762
Expenditure	4 324	4 611
Administration	4 199	3 793
Interest paid	125	818
Profit before tax	13 166	17 151
Tax	4 036	4 136
Profit after tax	9 130	13 015
Unappropriated profit, brought forward	127	47
	9 257	13 062
Less	9 135	12 935
Dividends declared	6 135	6 135
Interim 20c (15c)	2 045	2 045
Final 40c (25c)	4 090	4 090
Transfer to reserves	3 000	6 800
Unappropriated profit carried forward	122	127
Earnings - per share - cents	89	127
Dividends - per share - cents	60	60
- times covered	1,5	2.1

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	At 31 Dec 1995 R000	At 31 Dec 1994 R000
Fixed assets	68 727	71 222
Investments	12 035	11 229
Land and township development	2 339	2 041
Net current assets/(liabilities)	1 718	(2 662)
Current assets	9 902	5 521
Cash	7 775	-
Other	2 127	5 521
Less current liabilities	8 184	8 183
Bank overdraft	-	150
Other	8 184	8 033
	84 819	81 830
Share capital	256	256
Reserves	84 197	81 202
	84 453	81 458
Deferred liabilities and provisions	366	372
	84 819	81 830
Investments		
Listed - Market value	37 253	44 654
- Excess over book value	25 221	33 428
- Book value	12 032	11 226
Unlisted - Book value	3	3
Shares in issue unchanged at 10 224 350		
Net assets (as valued) per share - cents	1 560	1 573

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 146 of 40 cents per share, in respect of the year ended 31 December 1995, has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 23 February 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 13 March 1996 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 12 March 1996.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 24 February to 1 March 1996, inclusive.

London Office and Office of United Kingdom Registrar:
Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited
Greencoat House
Francis Street, London SW1P 1DH

7 February 1996

[illegible] GOLD FIELDS GROUP

By order of the Board:
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Secretaries
S.J. Dunning
Secretary

[illegible]

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT	Year ended 31 Dec 1995 R000	Year ended 31 Dec 1994 R000
Revenue		
Income from investments	16 229	11 560
Surplus on realisation of investments	-	1 009
Interest received	1 102	1 065
Sundry	13	49
	17 344	13 683
Expenditure	1 169	985
Profit before tax	16 175	12 698
Tax	(14)	307
Profit after tax	16 189	12 391
Extraordinary item	-	(16 728)
	16 189	(4 337)
Unappropriated profit, brought forward	22	16
	16 211	(4 321)
Less	16 197	(4 343)
Dividends declared	10 117	7 357
Interim 20c (15c)	3 679	2 759
Final 35c (25c)	6 438	4 598
Transfer to/(from) reserves	6 080	(11 700)
Unappropriated profit carried forward	14	22
Earnings per share – cents	88	67
Dividends - per share - cents	55	40
- times covered	1,6	1,7

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	At 31 Dec 1995 R000	At 31 Dec 1994 R000
Investments	40 024	31 884
Net assets	11 854	13 922
Current assets	18 465	18 731
Cash	8 863	12 242
Other	9 602	6 489
Less current liabilities	6 611	4 809
	51 878	45 806
Share capital	9 448	9 448
Reserves	42 430	36 358
	51 878	45 806
Investments		
Listed - Market value	73 561	77 420
- Excess over book value	50 022	62 021
- Book value	23 539	15 399
Unlisted - Book value	16 485	16 485
Shares in issue unchanged at 18 393 600		
Net assets (as valued) per share - cents	1 295	1 317

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 98 of 35 cents per share, in respect of the year ended 31 December 1995, has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 23 February 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 13 March 1996 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 12 March 1996.

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7 February 1996

By order of the Board:
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Secretaries
S.J. Dunning
Secretary

☐ A new world power in computers ☐ Executives' role in a stakeholder society ☐ Barriers to the German telecoms market

The worm at Apple's core

☐ GIL AMELIO, boss of struggling Apple Computers, could hardly have been greeted by worse news in his first week. Packard Bell, which has taken Apple's second spot in the American market for personal computers, is being mightily armed to assault faster-growing European and Far East markets too.

The three-way deal between Packard Bell, NEC, of Japan, and Bull, the state-promoted French computer champion, illustrates, in super, user-friendly colour graphics, the weaknesses of the pc pioneer. Beny Alagem's Packard Bell prospers because it is a low-cost manufacturer. Like Compaq, the market leader, it relies on the research overheads of component and software developers such as Intel and Microsoft.

Now it has cemented a powerful tri-continental alliance that should speed development of upmarket and multi-media products and broaden distribution. No matter that Bull is doubtless pleased to be shot of Zenith, part of new management's plan to wean France's spoilt child off state aid. It helps to build a stronger global competitor and lowers costs on new generation mass market products such as portables.

By contrast, Apple continues to sadlle itself with much of its own costly software and hardware development. That is in part bacause it has not formed such strong strategic alliances, in turn because it does not want to give away its best secrets. When needy IBM tried an offer in 1994, Apple wanted more. Now it shares are barely two thirds of the price.

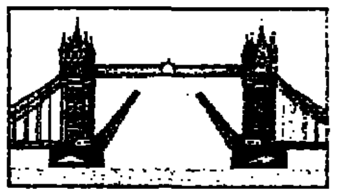
In America, which accounts for almost two fifths of the world market, growth is slowing, putting ever more pressure on costs and to share overheads. Industry analysts still expect 13 per cent growth this year, but most of that is replacement demand. Where computers are still spreading, the market is growing faster, by 70 per cent in Japan last year and a third in Europe. Pressure on margins is still intense, as even Compaq found last year. Apple, which lost $69 million in the usually most profitable Christmas quarter, won number two spot in Japan but suffered as much from intense competition there as from sluggish sales at home and its long failure to crack the dominant corporate market.

The mass personal computer market is past the era of a thousand flowers blooming. The future rests with relatively few global firms. NEC/Packard Bell/Zenith will surely be one of them, together almost matching Compaq's 10 per cent of the world market. After Microsoft bridged the technical gap with Windows 95, Apple is in danger of becoming the Sony Betamax of the pc world unless it links or specialises. Mr Amelio needs all his good friends.

The limits to accountability

☐ THERE was a time when being a company director was a doddle. Long lunches with the people who put the work your way and Friday afternoon on the golf course — you remember how it was, old boy.

PENNINGTON



In the 1980s, the culture switched to a 15-hour day, *power* breakfasts and the devil take the hindmost. It may have meant burn-out at 50, but again you knew where you were.

Now we are all squaring up to a stakeholder democracy even if no one knows what this entails. At the social level, it means having enough of a stake in society not to burn your surroundings down periodically out of sheer frustration at your economic impotence.

For the executive, it should involve an end to a business culture red in tooth and claw. New Labour insists that its plans, ill-defined and inchoate though they may be, for a stakeholder culture will not require extensive legal changes to those Companies Acts that define the duties of directors.

An analysis out today from Bristol University claims, too, that no large-scale changes to corporate governance law will be necessary for UK firms to become "stakeholder companies". Professor John Parkinson, a legal academic at Bristol, says there is a "slackness of legal control over business policy".

But this is a blessing, not a disadvantage. Any redefinition of directors' duties to take in interested parties other than shareholders, such as customers, suppliers, employees and the wider community, would not, he says, reduce accountability, because the system does not provide much accountability as it is. For directors and companies, there is no legal obligation to behave in a short-termist way.

It may be in the short-term interests of businesses to drive their suppliers to the wall through sharp business practice, but, notwithstanding recent remarks by Michael Heseltine, it makes no long-term sense.

Will BT dial a better service?

☐ BRITISH TELECOM and its new German partners, Viag and RWE, are taking on Deutsche Telekom in Europe's biggest telecommunications market. Their goal is to capture as many as 15 per cent of the residential and business customers after deregulation in 1998.

In spite of the muscle and talent that the trio can offer, this looks over-ambitious. BT need only to consider the experience of its home market. When Mercury arrived in 1984, the company intended building a network and offer a portfolio of services that would challenge BT's monopoly.

Mercury, of course, failed. BT, the nimble leviathan, has given up little more than 10 per cent of the market in the vast majority of service areas. BT would be foolish to expect Deutsche Telekom to fight any less furiously. What is more, the BT-Viag-RWE consortium will emerge as only one of several upstart groups vying with Deutsche Telekom. In case anyone has forgotten, Cable and Wireless, which has infinitely more overseas experience than BT does, also has designs on Germany and has formed a broad partnership with Veba.

Mercury proved that competing on price alone is no recipe for success. In Germany, BT will not only have to be cheap, but must offer better and more innovative services. That won't be easy.

Confusion insured

☐ THE rigmarole forced on UK insurers by the EU Insurance Accounts Directive is a peculiarly pointless one even by the Eurocrats' standards. The Pru *et al* will have to publish a set of figures that is supposedly standardised with their peers across Europe, showing wild fluctuations in profits as investments rise and fall in value. Insurance company accounts have never been that transparent; the new Euro-accounts will be opaque indeed.

Battle to revive O&R nears an end

By Sarah Bagnall

THE long-running battle to resuscitate Owen & Robinson, the sportswear retailer, is nearly over, with news of a £5.48 million capital injection that should see its shares relisted next month after an eight-month suspension.

If successful, O&R will be the first publicly quoted company to be saved from administration while its trading subsidiary is saved simultaneously from company voluntary arrangement. O&R's shares were suspended at 16p last July — a far cry from the 782p they commanded in May 1991.

The company also revealed a management shake-up involving the departure of five of six directors and the appointment of Maurice Dwek as executive chairman, a post he held until 1992. Rodney East and Keith Miles have been appointed non-executive director and finance director respectively.

The £5.48 million is being raised by way of a placing and open offer at 10p a share. The new and existing shares are expected to start trading on March 4.

O&R revealed a loss of £4.2 million (£81,000 profit) in the six months to July 31.

BT alliance to put £1.5bn into German operation

By Eric Reguly

THE alliance formed yesterday by BT and its German industrial partners will invest about £1.5 billion to launch a competing service to Deutsche Telekom, the state telecommunications group which will lose its monopoly in 1998. BT said that the alliance's goal is to capture 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the German market.

BT formed the partnership with RWE, one of Germany's largest electricity, gas and water suppliers, and Viag, an industrial group, which both have telecoms arms.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said: "We welcome the approach taken to regulation in Germany, which has provided the regulatory environment so that these three companies can plan how to tackle these markets."

Deutsche Telekom is scheduled to be privatised later this year and the entire German market, Europe's biggest, will be thrown open to competition a year later. Several groups, including Cable and Wireless and Veba, its partner, will be competing with BT's alliance for market share. BT has said it expects Deutsche Telekom's market share to decline to about 80 per cent by 2005.

BT, RWE and Viag will attack both the residential and business market. BT will provide the marketing skills and much of the technology while RWE and Viag, whose activities give it access to about 80 per cent of the German population, will provide infrastructure and billing systems.

Sir Iain Vallance, left, BT chairman, with Sir Peter Bonfield, the company's chief executive

BT said it will try not to compete on price alone. It noted that Mercury Communications, its main rival in Britain, had made little progress by attempting to undercut BT. The ownership structure of the German alliance has not been determined yet, though each of the partners is expected to have a one-third share. Separately, BT said it is unlikely to announce its French partner until the autumn. It had previously stated that a partner would be chosen by the end of last year.

The delay suggests that BT is having trouble finding a suitable candidate in continental Europe's second largest telecoms market. France is the biggest hole in its European portfolio; alliances have already been formed in Italy and Spain.

Country Casuals advances

SHARES in Country Casuals, the high street clothing retailer, reached their highest level for more than a year after the company announced a 9 per cent growth in sales in the fourth quarter (Alasdair Murray writes).

The share price rose 4p to close at 154p.

The company said it performed strongly in the weeks leading up to Christmas while maintaining margins. It added that, although its early January sales were disappointing, a pick-up in January resulted in a 6 per cent increase in sales on a like-for-like basis.

Country Casuals has struggled since its flotation at 130p in 1992. In October, John Shannon, former chairman, launched a £26 million bid for the company which failed. He has since sold his 18.8 per cent stake in the company for a profit of £5 million. Tempus, page 26

BAA raises £260m to aid expansion

By Paul Durman

BAA, the company that runs seven UK airports including Heathrow and Gatwick, yesterday raised £260 million through an issue of convertible bonds.

The move puts BAA in a stronger position to bid for the Australian airports being privatised late this year.

BAA also announced a 14 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £374 million for the nine months to December 31. Passenger numbers increased by 5.9 per cent to 73.4 million, a rise that has continued into January.

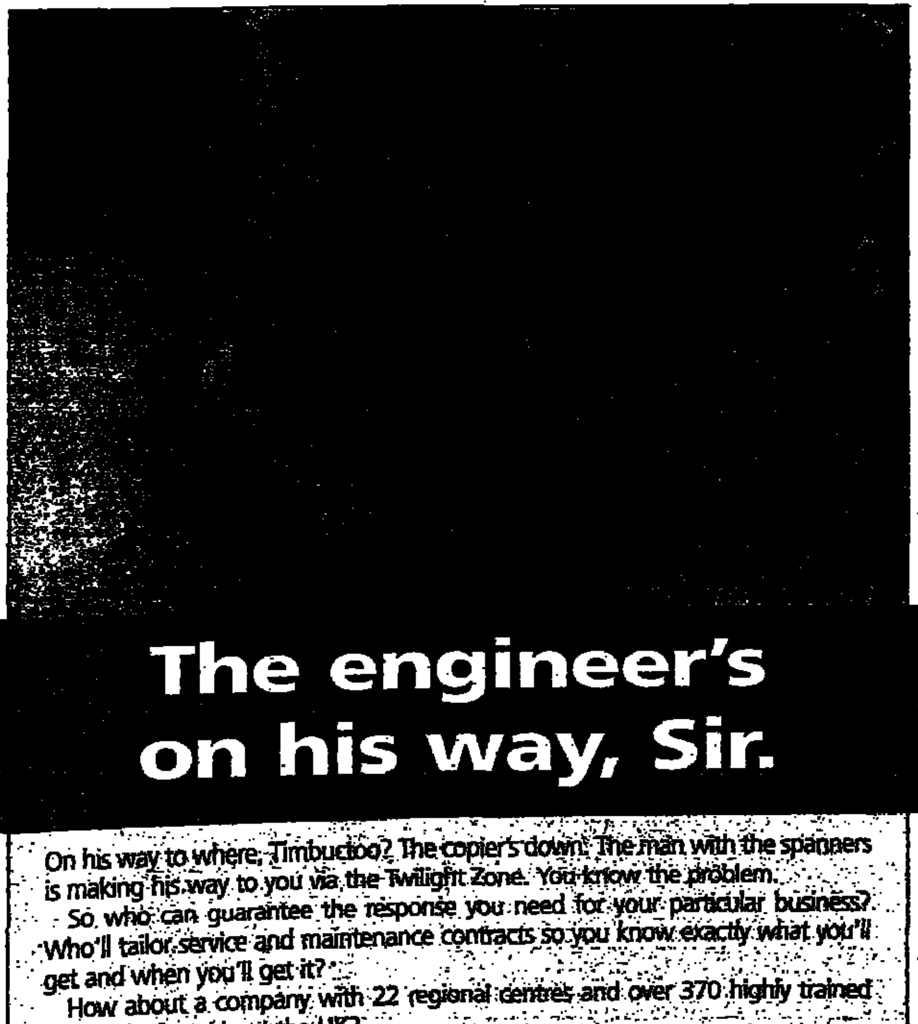
A BAA spokesman said the bond issue took advantage of cheap money in the convertible market. The bonds will pay interest at 5.75 per cent and can convert to ordinary shares at a price of 576p, nearly 18 per cent above yesterday's mid-market price of 488.5p.

While BAA awaits the outcome of the Heathrow Terminal 5 inquiry, it is pressing ahead with international expansion. It has formed a consortium with the insurer Australian Mutual Provident and the New South Wales superannuation authority to buy one or more of Sydney, Perth, Melbourne or Brisbane airports, Australia's biggest.

Stansted was again the fastest-growing of BAA's airports. But Heathrow, up 2.6 per cent in January, has grown by 4.9 per cent over the last year. The airport handled 54.2 million passengers in the year to end January, out of a BAA total of 92.2 million. Heathrow's current maximum capacity is about 60 million.

For the nine months, BAA's income from traffic and airport charges was £380 million, up by 4.5 per cent from £364 million. Passenger spending generated net retail income of £313 million, a 10 per cent rise. Property income rose by 11.4 per cent to £157 million.

Tempus, page 26



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Prowting warns on profits

By Paul Durman

THE weak housing market claimed another victim yesterday when Prowting, the South of England housebuilder, said that its profits had been hit by patchy demand and fierce price competition.

Prowting's shares fell 11p to 102p as its broker cut its profit forecast for the year from £9.5 million to £6 million. Prowting made £9.6 million in the year to February 28, 1995.

Terry Roydon, chief executive, blamed intense price pressure in November and December. He said: "Housing had almost become a commodity product. Quality was not being paid for. Buyers were simply getting the best deals that they could."

The company said it was reluctant to drive volumes at the expense of margins.

The poor sales at the end of the year nullified a good September and October. Mr Roydon said second-half sales would be a little above 600 homes, *only slightly better* than the first half. The average selling price would be about £87,000, a *few* thousand short of Prowting's target. Another factor was a higher second-half interest charge.

Mr Roydon said the market in the West Country was particularly tough. "We are not seeing the number of people retiring from the Home Counties that we used to," he said.

Steve Charnock, analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, expects the market's difficulties to continue, and more profit warnings. He said the dearer land bought in 1994 was only now showing through in results.

Tempus, page 26

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هكذا في الاصل

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Smith & Nephew offers a touch of brightness

A WAVE of buying from the US enabled **Smith & Nephew**, the healthcare group, to provide one of the few bright features in an otherwise dull marketplace.

The shares ended 4p better at 189½p in heavy turnover that saw almost 11 million shares change hands. But *brokers were quick to rule out* the revival of bid speculation. They say this latest surge of institutional support is based on fundamentals alone.

It coincides with a change of heart by several leading brokers recently. UBS is believed to have started the ball rolling by turning positive on the shares. On Tuesday, it was the turn of ABN Amro Hoare Govett, which came out with a buy recommendation. It stretches the rise in the share price during the past week to 11p.

The rest of the equity market was showing signs of strain as an early mark-up quickly ran out of steam and share prices were left to their own devices. Growing political worries and further concern about the economic revival have begun to take their toll on sentiment.

In the event, the FT-SE 100 index chose to ignore another record-breaking run overnight on Wall Street — its ninth so far this year — to end 21.4 points down at 3,726.1. Total turnover was 705 million shares.

Gehe, the German pharmaceutical distributor, finally made its move and launched a counter-*bid* for **Lloyds Chemists**, up 23p at 467p. Gehe is offering 450p a share, valuing the chemist at £557.4 million. The offer from **UniChem** is *worth 404p* a share, or £500 million.

Dieter Kammerer, chairman of Gehe, said the terms were generous and compared favourably with those of UniChem. City speculators are now anxious to see if UniChem will raise its initial offer above that of the German company. Brokers say it has scope to do so, offering up to 480p a share before the balance sheet is affected. UniChem responded to the move with a 3p rise to 248p.

A flurry of speculative buying lifted **United News & Media**, publisher of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star*, 29p higher to 624p. The group, headed by Lord Stevens of Ludgate, has refused to confirm or deny claims that it is poised to *dispose of the Express titles*. The story was circulating in the Square Mile last year, with Tony O'Reilly, the Irish financier and HJ Heinz chairman, named as a potential buyer along with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer. By the close of business more than 4 million shares had changed hands in a market where traders normally make a price *in 25,000 at a time. Speculative* buying was also good for **Mirror Group**, up 6½p at 201p, and **Pearson**, 5p better at 685p.

Shares in Lord Stevens's United News & Media rose

A *profits downgrading* left **GKN** nursing a fall of 28p to 825p. Brokers are becoming worried about deteriorating conditions in the automotive market. Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, has slashed its profit forcecast from £363 million to £349 million. A profits warning left **Prowting** 11p lower at 102p and served to highlight the problems continuing to be faced by companies in the building and construction industry. Sales of homes in the past two months of 1995 were sharply down on the corresponding period. Brokers immediately began reducing their forecasts, with *the likes of Panmure Gordon*, the broker, slicing £3.5 million from its estimate of £9.5 million. Other brokers have settled on a final outcome of *about £6 million.*

BAA Group, the independent airport operator, failed to benefit from a sharp jump in quarterly figures, with the shares closing 3p lighter at 486p as investors switched out of the ordinary and into the *convertible. Pre-tax profits in* the first nine months of the year were up from £328 million to £374 million. Brokers appeared pleased with the *near 6 per cent rise in passen*ger traffic during January.

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, dipped 3p to 214p in spite of securing two major contracts. It has been asked by Singapore Aircraft Leasing Enterprise to supply its new Trent engine to power six Boeing 777's in a deal worth £100 million. The group has also clinched a Canadian deal for its gas turbine industrial version of the Trent engine to supply electrical power to Ontario Hydro and process *steam to a paper mill.*

Headlam Group, the floorcoverings and fabrics distributor, raced up 8p to 220p on news that it plans to raise £18.3 million by way of a rights issue on the basis of one-for-four at a heavily discounted 185p. The money will be used to finance the acquisitions of Mercado, the carpets and floorcoverings distributor, and Malie Group, of The Netherlands. The total purchase price of both companies is £20.7 million.

Frost Group, the independent petrol retailer, advanced a further 15p to 138p, reflecting this week's decision by Mercury Asset Management to increase *its holding in the* company with the purchase of an extra 1.7 million shares. It takes its total holding to 15.4 per cent.

☐ ***GILT EDGED:*** *Prices in* London closed higher in spite of political concerns and the lack of anything firm emerging from the monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

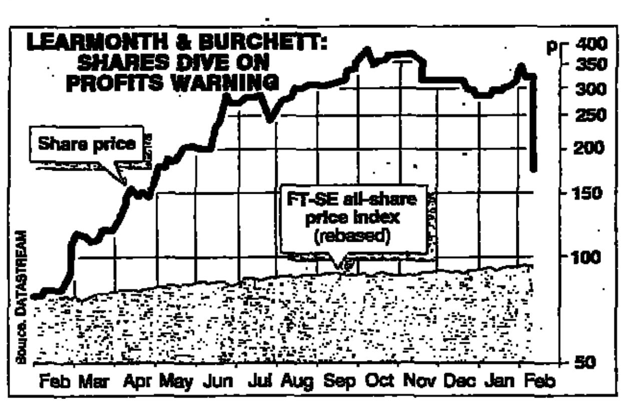
Brokers said that gilts recovered from a hesitant start encouraged by a technical rally among German bunds.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt touched £109½ before ending £⅜ better at £109⁹⁄₃₂.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8¾ per cent 2017 rose £¹⁵⁄₃₂ to £107²¹⁄₃₂, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished ¼ better at £104⅜.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares lost ground in early trading, more because of a lack of buyers than aggressive selling. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 2.89 points to 5,456.72.

LEARMONTH & BURCHETT: SHARES DIVE ON PROFITS WARNING



John Waddington, the packaging group, fell 5p to 197p. Wise Speke, the Newcastle-based broker, has placed 5.2 per cent of the company, which had been overhanging the market with various clients. The 5.4 million shares were placed at 190p. They are believed to have been the holding of Threadneedle Investment Managers.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5456.72 (-2.89)
S&P Composite	645.94 (-0.39)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20943.49 (+192.34)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11388.59 (-2.79)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	504.81 (+2.08)
Sydney:	
AO	2273.7 (+4.0)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2446.16 (+17.88)
Singapore:	
Straits	2491.93 (-1.78)
Brussels:	
General	8983.50 (+14.59)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1983.29 (-5.18)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	735.90 (-0.50)
London:	
FT 30	2738.6 (-21.9)
FT 100	3726.1 (-21.4)
FT-SE Mid 250	4147.1 (+7.0)
FT-SE-A 350	1857.1 (-7.7)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	*1557.63 (+6.18)*
FT A All-Share	1832.41 (-7.00)
FT Non Financials	1932.71 (-8.66)
FT Fixed Interest	112.88 (+0.07)
FT Govt Secs	94.64 (+0.17)
Bargains	29784
SEAQ Volume	705.5m
USM (Datastrm)	*197.91 (-0.93)*
US$	1.5385 (-0.0020)
German Mark	2.2728 (+0.0064)
Exchange Index	84.4 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1992
£:SDR	1.0491
RPI	150.7 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.6 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ballynatray Hldgs	6	...
Century Inns (120)	119	- 1
Dmatek	73	...
MediaKey (60)	65	...
Nthn Petlm Wts	8	...
Revelation Picr	105	...
Self Sealing Sys (54)	55	+ 2
SkyePharma B Wts	8	...
Viewinn	200	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Berkeley Gp n/p (435)	82	- 6
Oxford Mol n/p (235)	88	- 4

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Frost Group	138p (+15p)
TeleWest	145p (+10½p)
Tomkinsons	190p (+13p)
MAID	162p (+9p)
Manchester United	221p (+12p)
Antofagasta	378p (+20p)
Lloyd Thompson	174p (+9p)
Lloyds Chemist	*467p (+23p)*
Parity	206p (+10p)
Eurotherm	612p (+29p)
BPP	303p (+13p)
Logica	489p (+16p)
Scot TV	594p (+18p)
Molins	649p (+25p)
Kewill Sys	387p (+11p)
Mitel	382p (+9p)
Unitech	495p (+11p)
Psion	798p (+15p)
Seton Healthcare	448p (+13p)
FALLS:	
Prowting	102p (-11p)
Caradon	216p (-12p)
J Cropper	294p (-10p)
GKN	825p (-28p)
Sothebys	*955p (-30p)*
British Aerospace	839p (-24p)
Renison	307p (-8p)
TI	469p (-11p)
Blick	465p (-10p)
Courtaulds	428p (-8p)
Glaxo Wellcome	931p (-17p)
Capital Radio	620p (-11p)
BAT	567p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

A German spoiler

THERE is a hint of panic in Gehe's competing bid for Lloyds Chemists. The German pharmaceutical wholesaler has plenty of reasons to want to own the 800-strong retail *chain but they are tactical, not strategic.* Even if Gehe fails, it will have achieved part of its objective by raising the cost of UniChem's investment.

Gehe's main interest is wholesaling, a slim-*margin business in which it boasts a leading* position in Germany and France and last year acquired a 30 per cent share in the UK, buying AAH, the principal rival of UniChem. The Germans readily admit that AAH is *currently a less efficient* wholesaler than UniChem, making less margin and operating from 16 depots, compared with UniChem's 11 sites. Gehe intends to shut down two AAH depots, but the rationalisation is taking time and that is key to Gehe's strategy in yesterday's bid.

The Germans are attempting to rubbish UniChem's claim that it will achieve most of a total cost-saving of £20 million in one year following the bid. UniChem may be optimistic, but Gehe's reckoning that integration will take three to four years seems unduly long to close down surplus depots.

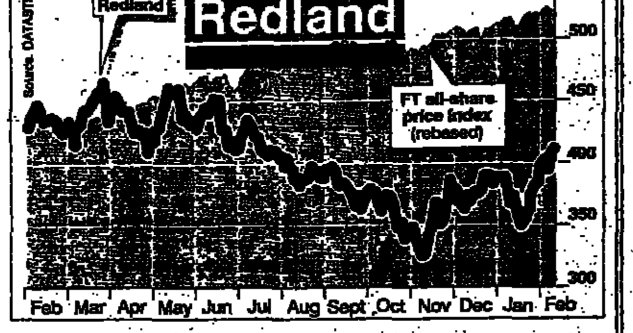
Gehe is not desperate to own a large retailer — its own retail chain is considerably smaller than UniChem's. But Gehe cannot afford to let its rival pick up big savings in bulk purchasing and logistics at low cost. The *market rightly believes UniChem's estimate* of savings is conservative and an increased offer looks imminent. But if Gehe forces the British company to issue more shares it may feel it has successfully spoilt the party.

Redland

REDLAND was bounced into displaying a wish list to the market this week. However, the chances of it achieving all the objectives look slim, and the benefits for shareholders are questionable. *Redland is considering* the sale of its bricks operations and an increase in control of Braas, the successful German roof tiles business in which Redland has a 51 per cent interest.

Braas is the precious stone in Redland's indifferent collection of brick and stone businesses. Last year, it generated more than half of Redland's operating profit, but contributed a much smaller percentage of Redland's huge dividend, the reason being that the Braas minority shareholders are not altogether happy at seeing the British parent siphon too much cash from the company. Redland secured agreement to increase the Braas payout rate last year, but the combination of a high dividend and high overseas earnings leave Redland with a cash flow problem.

The price for control of *Braas could be very high.* Despite the slowdown in Germany, Braas is the business that makes sense of Redland. If the company is really keen to enhance value, it would seek a listing for *Braas and distribute* the stake to its shareholders. That would leave the rump of Redland highly vulnerable, but even today there is *the risk that the attractions of* Braas might provoke a pot shot at Redland.



Housebuilders

TAKING one step back for every two steps forward, *housebuilders continue to* stagger uncertainly out of recession — witness yesterday's profits warning from Prowting. The builder's experience is typical: solid advances in early autumn were wiped out by a miserable November and December. Buyers are still shopping around to squeeze an extra few hundred pounds off the price of a semi.

This is bad news for companies like Bryant, that chased up land prices in 1994 at the first signs of a recovery that proved illusory. Expensive land is now working its way through the pipeline, putting further pressure on already slim margins. In such a market, specialist builders have proved to be more adept at responding to the changed circumstances. Berkeley Group grew rapidly through the recession, selling upmarket executive homes, but the builder is now snapping up development sites and buildings for refurbishment in central London, *where house prices and volumes are more resilient.*

Part-exchange schemes are proving a headache for builders. Barratt Developments *has shown that*, aggressively managed, part-exchange can deliver benefits. However, there is a risk in tying up cash in second-hand stock in such a weak market. While the recession continues, investors will do well to avoid builders that rely on volume rather than margins.

Country Casuals

SHAREHOLDERS in Country Casuals who resisted the instant gratification of last December's 140p bid are beginning to see their patience rewarded.

The clothing retailer has had a chequered history since it was floated in 1992 at 130p. Its core Country Casuals business has continued to perform robustly but diversions into new businesses such as Elvi and the ill-fated *Koto chains have proved less* successful. The spat at the end of 1994 over former chairman Alan Shannon's contract hardly helped the board to concentrate on the real problems of business.

But with Mr Shannon severing all contact with the company, it is beginning to look in better shape with news of a return to profit expected in the spring. Sales are increasing without the need to trim margin and Elvi, the outsize specialist, is also seeing revenue growth.

Results for the 1995 financial year will be marred by a provision for the 18 previously announced closures. However, free from boardroom distractions and write-offs, Country Casuals should be able to begin to prove what it is really worth over the coming year.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	909-908	May	1020-1019
May	932-931	Jul	unq
Jul	954-953	Sep	—
Sep	972-971	Dec	—
Dec	991-990		
Mar	1009-1008	Volume: 5227	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2017-2013	Nov	1747-1745
May	1836-1833	Jan	1740-1725
Jul	1782-1780	Mar	1730-1710
Sep	1761-1759	Volume: 4263	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	313.4-12.8
Spot: 380.0		Dec	304.8-04.2
Mar	370.8-70.2	Mar	301.8-01.2
May	357.3-56.8	May	298.4-97.3
Aug	339.4-39.0	Volume: 3701	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 6

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	110.05	131.50	119.61
(+/-)	+0.51	-1.00	+0.31
Eng/Wales:	110.05	133.15	118.44
(+/-)	+0.18	+0.68	+0.35
(%)	+4.0	-14.0	-20.0
Scotland.	110.13	124.51	123.54
(+/-)	+4.16	-8.07	+0.08
(%)	-27.0	-47.0	-19.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.90	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Mar)	16.65	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.15	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	17.70	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	17.30	+0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 168 (n/c)	O: 170 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	175 (+4)	177 (+5)
Non EEC IH Feb	174 (+4)	176 (+5)
Non EEC IH Mar	167 (+9)	170 (+9)
3.5 Fuel Oil	96 (-1)	98 (-1)
Naphtha	165 (n/c)	167 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Feb	171.50-71.75	May	146.50-47.00
Mar	157.50-57.75	Jun	146.00 SLR
Apr	150.00-50.25	Vol: 20229	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	16.65-16.67	Jun	15.78 BID
Apr	16.14-16.17	Jul	15.82 SLR
May	15.88-15.93	Vol: 24840	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	119.90	Mar	110.25
May	*121.95*	*May*	*112.15*
Jul	123.70	Sep	107.40
Sep	111.20	Nov	109.50
Nov	112.45	Jan	111.50
Volume: 785		Volume: 82	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	177.0	179.5
May	unq	205.0
		Volume: 48

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 103.25-103.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 96	1400	1375	1400
Mar 96	1410	1370	1401
Apr 96	1415	1370	1406
Jul 96	1300	1275	1300
Vol: 483 lots		Open Interest: 4424	

Index 1465 -6

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2575.0-2577.0	2531.0-2532.0	1422475
Lead ($/tonne)	766.00-767.00	764.00-765.00	158125
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1032.0-1034.0	1053.0-1054.0	459900
Tin ($/tonne)	6230.0-6240.0	6240.0-6250.0	11815
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1592.0-1593.0	1617.0-1618.0	1318350
Nickel ($/tonne)	8360.0-8370.0	8455.0-8460.0	57936

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	500	28	35	44	11	21	24
(*511)	550	7	14	22	41	52	54
Argyll	300	21	27	30	6	15	17
(*311)	330	6	12	17	22	32	34
ASDA	100	9	12	13	3	5	6
(*104)	110	4	7	9	8	10	11
Boots	600	24	35	43	15	25	31
(*623)	650	5	14	22	48	57	61
Br Airways	500	23	35	42	12	23	27
(*505)	550	5	14	21	45	53	57
BP	500	36	46	51	5	11	15
(*531)	550	8	20	25	29	33	39
Br Steel	160	15	19	20	3	8	10
(*170)	180	4	8	10	12	19	21
C & W	420	44	52	60	5	13	16
(*453)	460	19	30	38	20	30	33
CU	600	25	37	44	23	31	40
(*610)	650	6	17	24	60	64	71
ICI	800	28	44	53	29	35	46
(*812)	850	8	22	32	62	69	75
Kingfishr	500	36	44	53	10	19	24
(*525)	550	10	20	29	39	46	50
Land Sec	600	31	39	42	6	18	21
(*619)	650	7	13	18	33	48	50
M & S	420	22	28	33	7	19	18
(*429)	460	4	10	15	32	39	41
Nat West	650	20	44	51	23	31	40
(*666)	700	8	23	30	56	62	69
Sainsbury	360	36	39	45	2	7	10
(*369)	390	15	20	27	12	20	23
Shell	850	21	31	42	27	32	39
(*850)	900	4	12	21	64	67	71
SmKl Bch	700	34	50	61	15	24	31
(*716)	750	12	27	37	44	52	57
Storehse	280	27	34	37	4	8	11
(*290)	300	14	23	26	10	16	19
Trafalgar	30	4	6	7	3	5	6
(*31)	35	2	4	5	6	8	9
Unilever	1300	37	54	74	31	40	44
(*1310)	1350	16	32	49	64	70	74
Zeneca	1200	65	94	107	24	45	50
(*1241)	1250	37	67	79	50	69	73

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Grnd Met	420	18	32	42	3	10	18
(*439)	460	1	13	22	29	31	39
Ladbroke	160	16	22	28	1	8	13
(*174)	180	4	12	18	9	19	23
Utd Bisc	240	7	14	20	3	14	17
(*243)	260	1	6	12	17	27	30

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	460	34	43	49	5	11	14
(*485)	500	10	20	28	21	29	32
Thames W.	500	55	63	66	2	10	13
(*549)	550	19	29	34	15	31	34

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
BAT Ind	550	22	34	42	3	20	30
(*568)	600	2	12	21	32	51	60
BTR	300	29	31	33	0	4	6
(*329)	330	4	10	15	5	16	19
Br Aero	800	44	69	88	2	21	31
(*840)	850	12	38	61	20	43	54
Br Telcm	330	29	37	45	0	2	8
(*358)	360	5	16	24	5	12	20
Cadbury	500	36	44	54	1	14	18
(*534)	550	4	17	29	18	39	44
Guinness	420	32	38	44	0	7	11
(*451)	460	3	14	22	11	20	30
GEC	360	7	20	26	5	12	20
(*362)	390	0	7	13	27	30	38
Hanson	180	11	13	17	0	5	8
(*189)	191	3	—	—	4	—	—
LASMO	160	8	13	18	7	6	8
[illegible]	180	0	5	10	14	17	19
Lucas	180	14	19	24	0	5	8
(*193)	200	2	8	13	8	14	17
Pilkingtn	191	15	22	26	0	3	7
(*206)	210	2	11	15	7	11	16
Prudential	420	18	26	38	2	16	22
(*435)	460	1	10	19	25	41	45
Redland	390	22	33	38	1	13	19
(*410)	420	4	16	23	12	29	35
R-Royce	200	15	19	25	1	6	9
(*214)	220	2	9	14	9	16	19
Tesco	280	7	14	19	4	13	16
(*282)	300	1	6	10	18	26	28
Vodafone	220	14	23	28	1	7	12
(*239)	240	2	12	18	9	16	22
Williams	330	8	16	20	2	13	15
(*335)	360	0	4	9	25	34	38

FT-SE INDEX (*3727)

	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850
Calls						
Feb	131	85	46	16	3	1
Mar	148	109	74	47	26	13
Apr	157	121	91	66	44	29
May	178	145	114	88	63	45
Jun	190	—	127	—	79	—
Puts						
Feb	2	5	16	38	86	136
Mar	18	29	45	67	90	139
Apr	36	50	69	93	122	157
May	51	67	86	110	135	168
Jun	61	—	96	—	147	—

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	550	54	60	67	4	13	20
(*599)	600	17	29	40	25	35	43
Amstrad	180	12	20	24	9	14	19
(*183)	200	5	13	16	22	26	27
Barclays	750	45	56	69	10	21	31
(*788)	800	13	30	44	35	46	56
Blue Circ	330	33	37	44	2	11	14
(*359)	360	12	19	27	11	24	27
Br Gas	240	10	16	20	6	15	18
(*243)	260	3	8	12	19	28	31
Dixons	420	30	34	42	9	18	25
(*427)	460	5	17	24	35	41	47
Forte	343	11	15	19	2	4	7
(*349)	373	1	4	7	23	34	25
Tarmac	110	11	15	17	1	5	7
(*119)	120	5	9	12	5	10	12
Hillsdwn	160	19	20	21	0	4	7
(*177)	180	4	7	10	7	14	17
Lonrho	200	14	21	26	3	7	9
(*210)	220	4	11	16	13	17	19
Sears	90	7	9	10	1	3	4
(*98)	100	1	3	5	[illegible]	9	9
Thorn	1700	56	106	120	36	64	85
(*1706)	1800	19	61	83	100	120	140
Tomkins	260	17	25	28	3	7	12
(*272)	280	6	13	18	12	16	22
Lloyds TSB	322	13	27	—	11	18	—
(*327)	352	4	9	—	34	37	—

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Glaxo W	900	48	65	78	21	32	45
(*931)	950	21	47	54	46	58	71
HSBC	1050	65	87	104	32	49	[illegible]
(*1089)	1100	36	61	79	57	71	85
Reuter	600	38	54	67	14	24	31
(*623)	650	14	30	42	41	50	56

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Royal Ins	360	22	31	40	15	22	27
(*373)	390	7	18	27	33	40	44

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun		Puts Mar	Puts Jun	
Hsons	260	5	5	—	0	0	—
(*265)	290	0	0	—	15	18	—

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May		Puts Feb	Puts May	
Eastrn Gp	950	27	41	—	0	0	—
(*975)	1000	0	5	—	25	25	—

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Natl Pwr	420	41	52	54	1	9	14
(*456)	460	13	27	35	13	25	31
Scot Pwr	390	13	23	29	8	14	21
(*391)	420	3	10	15	29	32	39

February 7, 1996 Tot: 51877 Call: 27152 Put: 24725 FT-SE Call: 5403 Put: 7491

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 96	3768.0	3772.0	3730.0	3732.0	12723
Previous open interest: 65996	Jun 96	3771.0	3771.0	3740.5	3734.5	401
FT-SE 250	Mar 96				*4160.0*	*0*
Previous open interest: 3307	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	93.95	93.95	93.92	93.93	16707
Previous open interest: 390944	Jun 96	94.18	94.20	94.17	94.19	27062
	Sep 96	94.18	94.20	94.16	94.18	14707
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				94.82	0
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.81	96.82	96.79	96.81	20524
Previous open interest: 1081100	Jun 96	96.86	96.88	96.85	96.87	31954
Long Gilt	Mar 96	109-08	109-16	109-04	109-09	68684
Previous open interest: 143097	Jun 96	108-23	108-23	108-20	108-17	471
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	120.18	120.24	120.12	120.13	2115
	Jun 96	118.64	118.74	118.62	118.62	735
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	98.96	99.28	98.85	99.11	202198
Previous open interest: 252212	Jun 96	98.30	98.40	98.20	98.26	1544
Three month ECU	Mar 96	95.50	95.51	95.47	95.49	1022
Previous open interest: 24533	Jun 96	95.64	95.64	95.60	95.63	507
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.15	98.17	98.11	98.17	4771
Previous open interest: 64339	Jun 96	97.98	98.02	97.93	98.00	8078
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	112.10	112.32	111.77	112.02	43911
Previous open interest: 65934	Jun 96	111.70	111.70	111.60	111.54	244

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6[illegible]

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6[illegible] Low 6[illegible] Week fixed: 6[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth 6[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth: 6.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 6[illegible], close 6[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.26	n/a	5.14	5.03	4.90
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $414.50-415.00 Close: $412.50-413.00 High: $415.00-415.50 Low: $411.00-411.40 AM: $414.75 PM: $414.20

Krugerrand: $412.00-414.00 (£267.75-269.75)

Platinum: $430.50 (£280.20) Silver: $5.78 (£3.755) Palladium: $142.00 (£92.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 7	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5384-2.5465	2.5432-2.5465	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	46.59-46.77	46.67-46.77	13-10pr	35-30pr
Copenhagen	8.7650-8.8050	8.7790-8.8010	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9691-0.9728	0.9696-0.9722	12-9pr	28-23pr
Frankfurt	2.2668-2.2736	2.2699-2.2730	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	235.20-236.10	235.40-236.03	21-48ds	85-129ds
Madrid	190.91-191.54	191.06-191.35	42-51ds	130-137ds
Milan	2419.3-2426.1	2419.3-2423.3	6-8ds	19-22ds
Montreal	2.0975-2.1116	2.0975-2.1005	0.23-0.15pr	0.39-0.28pr
New York	1.5358-1.5388	1.5358-1.5368	0.13-0.11pr	0.34-0.31pr
Oslo	9.8880-9.9190	9.8940-9.9100	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	7.7620-7.8120	7.7930-7.8070	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	10.750-10.815	10.750-10.773	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	162.65-163.23	162.73-163.00	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.964-15.001	15.964-15.001	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.8522-1.8593	1.8564-1.8593	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3230-1.3239
Austria	10.39-10.40
Belgium (Com)	30.38-30.42
Canada	1.3691-1.3696
Denmark	5.7195-5.7225
France	5.0765-5.0775
Germany	1.4780-1.4790
Hong Kong	7.7305-7.7315
Ireland	1.5831-1.5851
Italy	1575.75-1576.75
Japan	105.95-106.05
Malaysia	2.5422-2.5432
Netherlands	*1.6540-1.6550*
Norway	6.4458-6.4533
Portugal	153.36-153.46
Singapore	1.4140-1.4150
Spain	124.30-124.40
Sweden	7.0272-7.0347
Switzerland	1.2074-1.2084

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5368-1.5394
Australia dollar	2.0327-2.0354
Bahrain dinar	0.5735-0.5855
Brazil real*	1.5022-1.5063
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.712-0.722
Finland markka	6.925-7.041
Greece drachma	371.75-378.75
Hong Kong dollar	11.8764-11.8896
India rupee	57.12-58.08
Indonesia rupiah	3489.0-3557.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.455-0.465
Malaysia ringgit	3.9045-3.9086
New Zealand dollar	2.2799-2.2831
Pakistan rupee	52.63 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.535-5.659
Singapore dollar	2.1722-2.1752
S Africa rand (com)	5.557-5.659
U A E dirham	5.585-5.709

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	541	Land Secs	1,000
ASDA Gp	9,000	Legal & Gn	974
Abbey Ntl	2,500	*Lloyds TSB*	6,400
Allied Dom	3,600	Marks Spr	1,800
Argos	190	NatWst Bk	5,000
Argyll Gp	10,000	Nat Grid	7,700
AB Foods	986	Nat Power	3,500
BAA	5,000	P & O	1,800
BAT Inds	3,200	Pearson	2,700
BOC	1,600	Pilkington	3,900
BP	6,400	PowerGen	2,700
BSkyB	2,000	Prudential	3,100
BTR	7,900	REXAM	1,500
BT	18,000	RMC	642
Bk of Scot	5,100	RTZ	2,900
Barclays	5,700	Rank Org	1,300
Bass	1,700	Reckitt Col	964
Blue Circle	4,000	*Redland*	*1,400*
Boots	1,100	Reed Intl	1,700
BAe	4,400	Rentokil	2,500
BA	1,900	Reuters	1,800
Brit Gas	14,000	*Rolls Royce*	4,300
Brit Steel	3,300	Royal Ins	1,700
Burmah Cstl	321	Ryl Bk Scot	1,600
Burton	4,200	Sainsbury	2,600
Cable Wire	5,600	Schroders	649
Cadbury	1,700	Scot & New	3,500
Carlton Cms	1,200	Scot Power	3,800
Cm Union	400	Svrn Trent	332
Cookson	2,200	Shell Trans	5,400
Courtaulds	1,700	Siebe	1,200
Dixons	1,500	SmKl Bch	3,400
Enterpr Oil	6,500	Smith Nph	10,000
Fore & Col IT	1,600	Smiths Inds	908
GKN	1,500	Sthern Elec	398
GRE	2,500	Std Chartd	2,900
GUS	1,500	Sun Allince	2,500
Gen Acc	544	TI Gp	1,200
Gen Elec	3,100	Tate & Lyle	289
Glaxo Well	4,200	Tesco	6,300
Granada	3,200	Thames W	169
Grand Met	3,900	Thrn EMI	717
Greenalls	747	Tomkins	633
Guinness	2,000	Unilever	1,200
HSBC	826	United Utls	598
Hanson	12,000	Vodafone	7,300
ICI	1,200	Whitbread	667
Kingfisher	372	Wlms Hld	2,200
LASMO	807	Wolseley	5,200
Ladbroke	1,600	Zeneca	1,000

WALL STREET

	Feb 7 midday	Feb 6 close
AMP Inc	41	40
AMR Corp	80	80
AT & T	67	67
Abbott Labs	42	42
Advanced Micro	20	20
Aetna Life	74	74
Ahmanson (HF)	24	24
Air Prod & Chem	52	52
AirTouch Comm	31	30
Alberto-Culver B	36	36
Albertson's	34	34
Alcan Alumnm	32	32
Alco Standard	45	46
Allied Signal	53	52
Alum Co of Am	56	55
Amax Gold Inc	9	9
Amerada Hess	53	53
Amer Brands	45	46
Amer El Power	44	43
Amer Express	45	45
Amer Genl Corp	36	36
Amer Home Pr	102	102
Amer Intl	99	99
Amer Stores	26	26
Amer Standard	29	29
Ameritech	64	62
Amoco	70	70
Anheuser-Busch	70	71
Apple Computer	28	29
Archer Daniels	19	19
Armco	5	5
Armstrng Wrld	60	60
Asarco	32	32
Ashland Oil	37	37
Atl Richfield	113	114
Auto Data Pro	39	40
Avery Dennison	53	53
Avon Products	82	82
Baker Hughes	24	24
Baltim Gas & El	28	28
Banc One	37	37
BankAmerica	69	68
Bank of NY	52	51
Bankers Tr-NY	65	65
Barnett Banks	59	59
Bausch & Lomb	40	39
Baxter Intl	43	42
Bectn Dickinsn	85	86
Bell Atlantic	71	70
Bell Industries	22	22
BellSouth	44	43
Black & Decker	34	34
Block (H&R)	38	37
Boeing	79	80
Boise Cascade	38	39
Bristol Myrs Sq	88	88
Browning Ferris	28	29
Brunswick	23	23
Burlington Nthn	82	83
CNA Financial	115	114
CPC Intl	72	73
CSX	47	46
Campbell Soup	63	64
Can Pacific	19	19
Cpd Cities ABC	127	129
Carolina Pwr	37	37
Caterpillar	63	65
Central & SW	27	27
Champion Intl	44	45
Chase Manhat	68	68
Chemical Bk	66	66
Chevron Corp	51	52
Chrysler	58	58
Chubb Corp	99	99
Cigna Corp	116	116
Citicorp	74	74
Clorox	85	85
Coastal Corp	38	38
Coca Cola	77	76
Colgate-Palmolive	73	73
Columbia Gas	43	44
ColumbiaHCA	55	55
Compaq Comp	50	51
Comp Ass Int	70	69
Conagra	46	45
Conrail	71	72
Cons Edison	34	34
Cons Nat Gas	46	45
Cooper Inds	38	38
Corestates	41	41
Corning Inc	37	37
Crown Cork	41	41
Dana Corp	33	33
Dayton Hudson	75	75
Deere	37	37
Delta Air Lines	71	71
Deluxe Corp	30	30
Digital Equip	74	75
Dillard Dept St	30	30
Disney (Walt)	63	62
Dominion Res	42	42
Donelley (RR)	38	38
Dover Corp	47	46
Dow Chemical	78	79
Dow Jones	39	39
Dresser	25	25
Duke Power	50	50
Dun & Bradstreet	66	66
Du Pont	78	79
Eastman Chem	67	67
Eastman Kodak	74	74
Eaton Corp	56	56
Edison Intl	18	18
Emerson Elec	84	84
Engelhard Corp	21	21
Enron Corp	36	36
Entergy	29	30
Ethyl Corp	10	10
Exxon	81	81
FMC Corp	73	73
FPL Group	47	46
Federal Express	75	75
Fed Nat Mtge	33	33
First Interstate	166	165
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Finl Grp	39	39
Fluor Corp	64	63
Ford Motor	29	29
GTE Corp	47	47
Gannett	65	65
Gap Inc Del	49	49
Gen Dynamics	60	60
Gen Electric	78	79
Gen Mills	56	57
Gen Motors	52	52
Gen Reinsurance	153	151
Gen Signal	35	35
Genuine Parts	44	44
Georgia Pac	73	73
Gillette	54	53
Glaxo Wellc ADR	28	28
Goodrich (BF)	73	74
Goodyear Tire	47	47
Grace (WR)	69	70
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23	23
Grt Westn Fin	24	24
Halliburton	51	52
Harcourt General	39	39
Heinz (HJ)	34	35
Hercules	55	56
Hershey Foods	72	73
Hewlett Packard	88	90
Hilton Hotels	86	89
Home Depot	45	45
Homestake Mng	20	20
Honeywell	51	51
Household Intl	65	64
Houston Inds	24	24
Humana	26	27
ITT Corp	56	55
Illinois Tool	61	61
Illinova	29	29
INCO	38	39
Ingersoll Rand	40	40
Inland Steel	28	28
Intel Corp	59	59
IBM	113	114
Intl Flav & Fr	49	48
Intl Paper	40	41
James River Va	26	26
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	96	97
Kellogg	76	76
Kerr-McGee	62	63
Kimberly-Clark	78	77
Kmart	7	7
Knight-Ridder	67	68
Lilly (Eli)	58	58
Limited Inc	16	16
Lincoln Nat	52	51
Litton	49	49
Liz Claiborne	31	32
Lockheed Martin	77	76
Louisiana Pac	24	24
MCI Comm	29	29
Marriott Intl	46	47
Marsh & McLen	92	91
Masco Corp	29	28
May Dept St	45	44
Maytag Corp	19	19
McDonalds	52	51
McDonnell D	91	91
McGraw Hill	89	89
Mead Corp	56	55
Medtronic	58	58
Mellon Bk	53	53
Melville Corp	29	29
Merck Inc	67	63
Merrill Lynch	59	59
Microsoft	95	96
Minnesota Mine	66	66
Mobil Corp	110	110
Monsanto	127	129
Morgan (JP)	80	80
Motorola Inc	57	58
Natl Semi	18	18
Natl Service Ind	34	34
Navistar Int	10	10
NY Times A	28	28
Newmont Mng	59	59
Niag Mohawk	8	8
Nike B	66	67
NL Industries	14	14
Noram Energy	8	8
Nordstrom	41	39
Norfolk Sthrn	77	77
Nthn State Pwr	51	52
Norwest Corp	34	34
Nynex Corp	56	55
Occidental Pet	22	21
Ohio Edison	23	23
Oracle	49	50
Oryx Energy Co	13	13
Owens Corning	44	44
PHH Corp	50	50
PPG Industries	45	45
PNC Bank	30	30
PP&L Res	25	25
Paccar Inc	49	48
Pacificorp	21	21
Pac Enterprises	28	28
Pac Gas & Elect	27	27
Pac Telesis	31	31
Pall Corp	28	28
Panhandle East	29	28
Parker Hannifin	34	34
Peco Energy	31	30
Penney (JC)	49	47
Pennzoil	40	40
Pepsico	61	60
Pfizer	67	67
Pharm & Upjhn	42	42
Phelps Dodge	64	64
Philip Morris	94	94
Phillips Pet	32	32
Pitney Bowes	47	46
Polaroid	46	48
PriceCostco	16	16
Procter & Gmbl	83	82
Providian	44	43
Pub Serv E & G	31	31
Quaker Oats	33	34
Ralston Purina	62	62
Raychem Corp	68	68
Raytheon	49	49
Reebok Intl	26	26
Reynolds Metals	53	52
Rockwell Intl	60	60
Rohm & Haas	70	70
Royal Dutch	140	142
Rubbermaid	28	27
SBC Comms	58	59
Safeco Corp	35	35
St. Paul's Cos	57	58
Salomon Inc	38	38
Sara Lee Corp	34	34
Schering Plough	55	56
Schlumberger	70	70
Seagram	35	35
Sears Roebuck	43	42
Shell Trans	79	80
Sherwin Wlms	42	42
Skyline Corp	21	21
Snap-On-Tools	43	43
Southern Co	25	24
Sprint Corp	43	42
Stanley Works	53	53
Sun Company	27	28
Sun Microsys	47	49
Suntrust	70	71
Supervalu	31	31
Sysco Corp	32	31
TRW Inc	87	87
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	10	9
Tandy Corp	44	43
Teledyne	26	26
Temple Inland	47	48
Tenneco	53	53
Texaco	81	81
Texas Inst	53	54
Texas Utilities	40	40
Textron	80	80
Time Warner	43	43
Times-Mirror A	35	35
Timken	40	40
Torchmark	47	47
Toys R Us	22	22
Transamerica	76	76
Travelers	64	64
Tribune	65	64
Tyco Labs	36	36
UST Inc	34	34
UAL	161	163
US Inds	18	18
USX Marathon	18	18
Unicom	34	34
Unilever NV	142	142
Union Camp	49	49
Union Carbide	44	44
Union Pacific	67	68
Unisys Corp	7	7
USAIR Group	15	15
USF&G Corp	16	16
US Life	31	31
United Tech	101	102
Unocal Corp	30	30
VF Corp	51	51
WMX Tech	28	28
Wal-Mart Stores	22	22
Warner-Lambert	93	95
Wells Fargo	253	257
Westinghouse El	20	20
Weyerhaeuser	45	45
Whirlpool	55	57
Whitman	24	23
Winn Dixie	36	36
Woolworth	12	11
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	57	57
Xerox	128	130
Yellow Corp	12	12

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Firth plays a Trump

MIKE FIRTH, the ebullient chairman of Yorkshire Food Group, who personally lost £100,000 on his maiden Yorkshire Business Conference at Harewood House last year, is hoping for better luck on May 17.

Even though last year's event included Dr Henry Kissinger, an astronaut, a general and the Black Dyke Mills Band, only 1,300 fee-payers came to sit on chairs that were laid out for 2,000 and the marquee had to be "shrunk". This year, tickets sales at £200 a head, including 100 taken by group auditor Coopers & Lybrand, are going so well that the marquee is having to be "stretched".

Firth, having been spurned by six British industrialists, has lined up Donald Trump, the US property entrepreneur, Albert Reynolds, the former Irish PM, Andrew Neil, the broadcaster, CNN's Larry King and *Wild Swans* author Jung Chang. The NatWest Jazz Band will also be there — to entertain at breakfast and luncheon.

And how much will speakers be paid? "Can't break a confidence," says the man who loves to promote Yorkshire. "But Donald Trump would only be flown across the Atlantic on Concorde."

Right chemistry

CORPORATE love affairs don't last long these days. Germany's Gehe group yesterday threatened to spoil the supposed love-match between UniChem and Lloyds Chemist, which had earlier agreed a deal, with its own bid. The first closing date of UniChem's bid is Wednesday — St Valentine's Day.

Happy landing

THE rough and tumble of the airline industry may seem a far cry from hernia operations, but a growing number of senior staff at PPP, the healthcare group, have been schooled in the British Airways management style. PPP's chief executive Peter Owen is among the flock from BA, followed by Bob Challens, who flew in this week as managing director of the healthcare division. Denis Walker, Brenda Klug, and Jonathan Russell were also once part of BA's big family.

The early bird

TO MAKE sure that the first set of results of the recently unified RTZ and CRA mining groups are given to the stock markets in Australia and London simultaneously on March 7, RTZ-CRA's announcement will be made at 2pm Melbourne time — 3am London time. Set your alarm clocks, chaps.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Public spending is a matter for the public to decide

As long as voters are content, there is no crisis in the welfare state

Everybody seems to agree that reducing government spending is one of the great political challenges of our time. And by everyone I do not just mean members of the Major Government, who have suddenly found a rare area of consensus on this point. After spending the past week "brainstorming" with hundreds of businessmen and politicians at the World Economic Forum in Davos, I am struck by the remarkable agreement among the global good and the great on this one point.

Yet, the most fundamental question about public spending is rarely asked and never properly answered. How much *should* the state spend? And how do we even approach an answer? Arbitrary figures, such as 40 per cent of GDP, or 35 per cent, or whatever we happened to spend ten years ago, have neither political resonance nor economic rationale.

What about international comparisons? Surely in a global market no country can afford to spend much more than its competitors on welfare if it is to keep down its costs and keep its citizens in jobs. European countries cannot allow their governments to spend an average of 53 per cent of GDP when the American Government spends only 37 per cent and the Japanese only 35 per cent. The taxes required to pay for such high levels of public spending inevitably boost costs in Europe and make it impossible for European companies to sell their wares against competitors from countries which are less highly taxed.

This is the standard answer from European businessmen and politicians when they are asked why it is necessary to cut welfare. You will not be surprised to learn, therefore, that it makes no sense at all from an economic point of view.

A country's level of taxes and public spending is not a key influence on its ability to compete in world markets. If it were, then America would have run a huge and growing trade surplus throughout the Reagan period, while Germany would by now have a foreign debt of more than $1 trillion.

The reality, of course, is exactly the other way round. A country can choose to spend whatever it wants on government programmes and still maintain both full employment and a balance in its trade with the world. The only proviso (admittedly a big one in Europe these days) is that the country must have an independent monetary policy and a floating exchange rate.

Britain could, if it wished, devote 60 or even 70 per cent of GDP to state spending (like The Netherlands and Sweden). Even if the taxes which paid for this spending were loaded straight on to labour costs, British companies could still remain competitive in world markets; the pound would simply have to fall far enough to offset the extra burden on British costs — and given the attitude of currency markets to high-spending governments such a fall would be quite easy to secure. The drawback of such a policy would be that British living standards — and especially our capacity to buy foreign goods — would fall with sterling. In the end, a country which spent most of its income on bureaucrats and destroyed incentives with excessive taxes, *might* end up as poor as Albania. But that would be because it had wasted resources and destroyed incentives, not because of competition from the rest of the world.

Thus the fundamental questions that have to be answered in assessing the size of the public sector have nothing to do with global competition; they are about the effects of taxes and public spending on efficiency, incentives and productive investment within a national economy. There can be little doubt that very high tax levels — say, for the sake of argument, 50 per cent plus — are likely to damage incentives, efficiency and investment. But when it comes to distinguishing between lower tax and spending levels — say between 35 per cent and 45 per cent — the answer is less clear.

A difference in the structure of the tax system can easily have a bigger impact on incentives than a difference in the overall tax level. A big shift in the tax burden from incomes and employment on to consumption, for example, could do far more to increase investment and work incentives than a cut in the overall burden of tax. Comparing Germany with America again shows this is more than a theoretical quibble. Germany has consistently had a much higher tax burden than America, yet Germany saves and invests far more than America.

If Europe's structural unemployment is related to exceptionally high employment taxes then perhaps the first priority for governments should not be to cut the overall tax burden — a task which will take years to achieve — but to shift the burden from social security taxes to taxes on consumption or incomes. The trouble with this policy, of course, is that income and consumption taxes are unpopular with voters, while social security taxes are less "visible" and easier to disguise as "contributions" which will pay for later benefits from the welfare state.

This brings me to the spending side of the ledger. While it is true that total public spending is much higher in continental Europe than in America, Japan and even Britain, this does not necessarily mean that European governments waste more of their national income on employing bureaucrats or that their meddling makes European businesses less efficient.

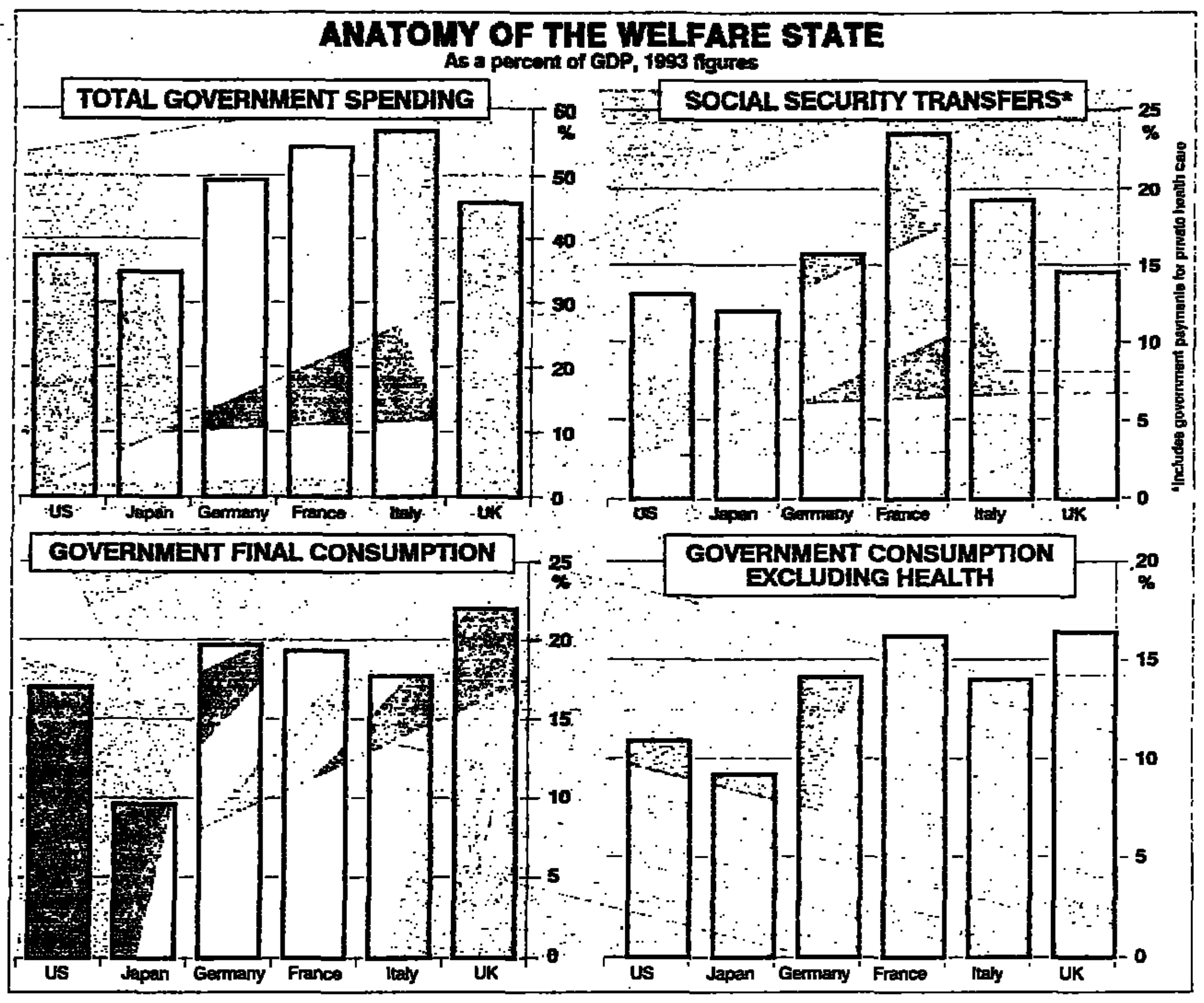
Governments have many ways of interfering with business decisions even when they do not spend money or raise taxes. Is the regulation of business and finance really more onerous in Italy than in the US? And is Japan really the least regulated of the major industrial countries? Is it obvious that relatively transparent forms of government influence such as taxes and subsidies are more damaging to efficiency than Japanese-style administrative guidance, not to mention the corruption and coercion in many smaller Asian countries?

As the charts show, the main reason why public spending is so high in continental Europe is the level of social security spending. But these are not resources used up by government — they are transfers from one part of the private sector to another. For government to transfer such large sums of money may well reduce incentives, but that will depend on the structure of incentives throughout the whole economy, not just on the crude volume of money that goes through government accounts.

For example, social security transfers are much higher in continental countries than they are in Britain, mainly because European pensions are paid through the government, instead of private pension fund. It is often claimed in Britain that funded pension systems are better because they encourage private savings and investment. Yet, in reality, the level of total private savings and investment is much *lower* in Britain than in Italy, Germany or France. How can we be so sure, therefore, that the continental countries have suffered from their high social security spending and the absence of private pensions?

Another factor boosting social transfers in continental countries (as well as in America) is the system of health financing. Outside Britain, most of the medical care is provided by the private sector. Government insurance reimbursements then count as social transfers. In Britain, by contrast, doctors and nurses are government employees — and therefore health spending counts as "government consumption". This is one reason government consumption is actually higher in post-Thatcherite free-market Britain than it is in such "corporate states" as Germany, Italy or France (see bottom left chart). As the last right chart shows, however, Britain remains a high public spender even after health is taken out. The fact is that Britain spends far more of its income on defence and policing than most countries — and a slightly higher proportion on education than Germany or France.

To summarise, the real facts behind the global "crisis" of public spending are ambiguous and confusing, to put it mildly. Neither economic theory nor international experience offers any reliable rules of thumb to tell governments how much they can afford to spend and tax. Within very broad limits, each country can tax and spend as much as it wants — there is no automatic mechanism in the global competition to punish those who spend too much. In the end, it is up to each country's voters to decide what public services they want and are prepared to pay for.



An unsung tale of success for the Treasury

Despite the Jeremiahs, clamping public pay has worked, says Philip Bassett

When the Government announces today its decisions on the recommendations of the pay review bodies for 1.5 million employees in the public sector, Ministers expect ritual protests from knee-jerk union leaders.

But behind such well-rehearsed chest-beating from both sides, lies a largely unsung success story for the Government, which may have considerable implications for the current pay round, and for public-sector pay if Labour is elected.

Today's pay review bodies are expected to recommend increases around 4 per cent for teachers, nurses, doctors, dentists, judges, senior civil servants, and other employees in the public sector whose pay is determined by an independent sifting of evidence rather than collective bargaining.

Though today's awards cover only about a quarter of employees in the public sector, many other public-sector settlements this year will be influenced by the Government's decisions.

Four years ago, when the Treasury suddenly announced a clamp on public-sector pay, the Jeremiah chorus was all but overwhelming — the experience of such policies was that they break down after two or three years. But, as a new report today by the independent pay analysts Incomes Data Services shows — though IDS does not draw out these implications — the policy adopted, not without considerable risk, has, within its terms, been a wholesale success.

> ❛ Public-sector pay rapidly became the dog *that didn't bark* ❜

Firstly, paybill costs — the basis of the restriction on pay — have been kept low, with increasingly difficult freezes on 1993-94 paybill levels maintained on the basis of efficiency and manpower cost savings. Within that, settlement ranges have been tight: up to 1.5 per cent in the first year, and 2 to 3 per cent in the following two years — if anything, a little below private-sector deals.

While that is satisfactory to Ministers in both paybill and settlement terms, it has been satisfactory also for many employees covered by the restriction, who have been able to rack up quite large increases through improved performance, and yet stay within its terms.

With that kind of reality as a counter to the initial opposition of some union leaders, the smarter ones quietly got on with negotiating the deals that the paybill freeze presented — unsurprisingly, perhaps, public-sector pay rapidly became the dog that did not bark. Treasury Ministers and officials were deeply satisfied with a policy that seemed to succeed on all accounts, and had the added benefit of making some union leaders look silly.

While the looming election might increase the temptation — as IDS suggests today — for Ministers to relax the policy to improve the "feel-good" factor, the implications of such patterns of increases may be greater for any future Labour government.

Look for a policy on pay in the public sector in old or new Labour, and what you find is a hole. For an issue so sensitive that it brought down the last Labour Government, this is odd. The Government charges that, whatever guise its policy takes — the "stakeholder" economy being the latest formulation — Labour will have to reimburse its union paymasters if it gets into government.

For their part, many public-sector union leaders do have high expectations on pay, either believing or hoping that Labour will see their members right. Significantly, their claims of unsolved pay-comparability problems, with the underlying threat of strikes, float away if Labour is not elected. This suggests that the much-vaunted problem of pay in the public sector may be one of politics not pay.

Despite what looks like a policy hole, Labour may not need to do anything material about public-sector pay — though a future Labour government may have to face down some public-sector, and especially town-hall, militants, who may try to use pay as a lever to activate their opposition to Tony Blair's leadership.

What this means is that, in spite of any sound and fury there may be today, neither the Government nor Labour may have to see public-sector pay as much of a problem any longer.

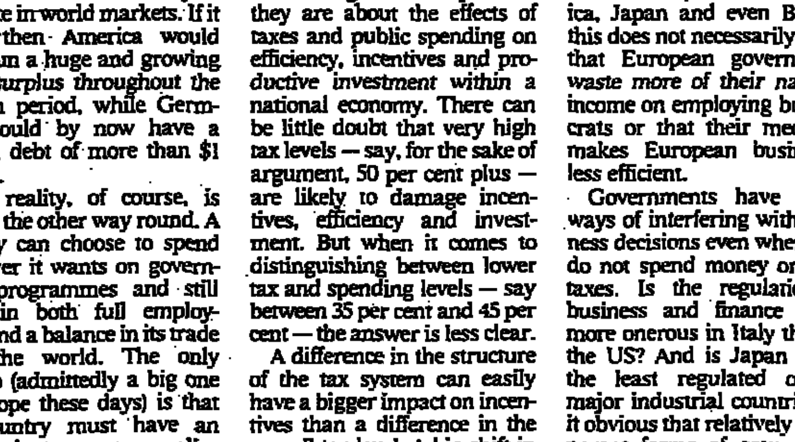
Open skies back on the horizon

Four months after talks on liberalising air routes between Britain and the US broke down, the Americans have hinted that they are keen to restart them. As US transportation officials prepare for discussions with Germany later this month on an "open skies" air pact, the spotlight has fallen once again on Britain's transatlantic relations.

After Britain, Germany is the largest market for US airlines in Europe and is the first large European nation to move to a free-market aviation pact with the US. In a thinly veiled statement last Friday, US officials said they hoped an "open skies" accord with smaller nations would force larger ones to ease their restrictions on foreign carriers.

The central issue is US carriers' access to *Heathrow*, the second-busiest airport in the world, after Chicago, and the busiest international air hub. Discussions, which have dragged on for four years, ended in October in Washington with recriminations on both sides.

The US accused Britain of protecting British Airways' premier position at Heathrow, while the British were angry at being denied access to US domestic routes, which account for more than half of all flights worldwide. BA has almost 40 per cent of total take-off and landing slots at Heathrow and carries almost half of all passengers passing through the airport.



Stephen Wolf, the new chairman of USAir, is expected to cut costs

Feelings run high on both sides. "Restarting talks depends on whether the Americans are still determined to protect their domestic market," one industry source on the British side said. "UK airlines want to be able to fly to the east coast, and then set up routes within the US, but the Americans are reluctant to go along with that. The talks broke up because the US airlines could not stop squabbling amongst themselves."

The Department of Transport's official line is that "no date has been set" for full negotiations, although low-level talks are believed to have continued since last autumn.

However, the Americans expect an agreement within weeks between the German transport and foreign ministries and the US transportation department. Also on the Americans' shopping list is the liberalisation of services between the US and France, Italy and Spain. BA which does a lot of business in Germany, will be watching events closely.

"A US-German deal could be just what is needed to kick-start Whitehall into resuming talks," one American source said. "Seeing an open skies agreement on major European cross-border routes will certainly cause the British Government some discomfort."

The British Government argues that Heathrow is so congested that there are few new arrival and departure slots even for UK airlines. Terminal Five, should it go ahead, would do little to alleviate the problem, with only a small increase likely in the number of flights.

Analysts, however, point to BA's relationship with USAir as a possible catalyst for further talks. (BA has had a 24.6 per cent stake in USAir since 1993.) Last year, USAir announced it was considering deals with other American carriers. USAir has a new chairman, Stephen Wolf, famed for cutting costs at United Airlines and expected to exact a similar turnround at USAir. Should USAir's fortunes improve, BA may be encouraged to seek a three-way alliance, drawing in a larger US carrier.

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ACCOUNTANCY

The devil is in the detail

Richard Watson challenges the small print of the Finance Bill

KEEN indirect tax practitioners combing through this year's Finance Bill may have noticed a number of features that point towards a significant change in the attitude of Customs and Excise.

As ever, these are buried in the fine print of the schedules, especially the new landfill tax and the new anti-avoidance provisions on VAT. The latter are designed to counter certain avoidance schemes based on the group registration rules, which essentially allow companies within a group to behave as though they are a single person from a VAT point of view. By juggling with the membership of the group and the timing at which certain transactions are undertaken, it has been possible to avoid considerable amounts of tax. The anti-avoidance legislation is aimed at these "abusers".

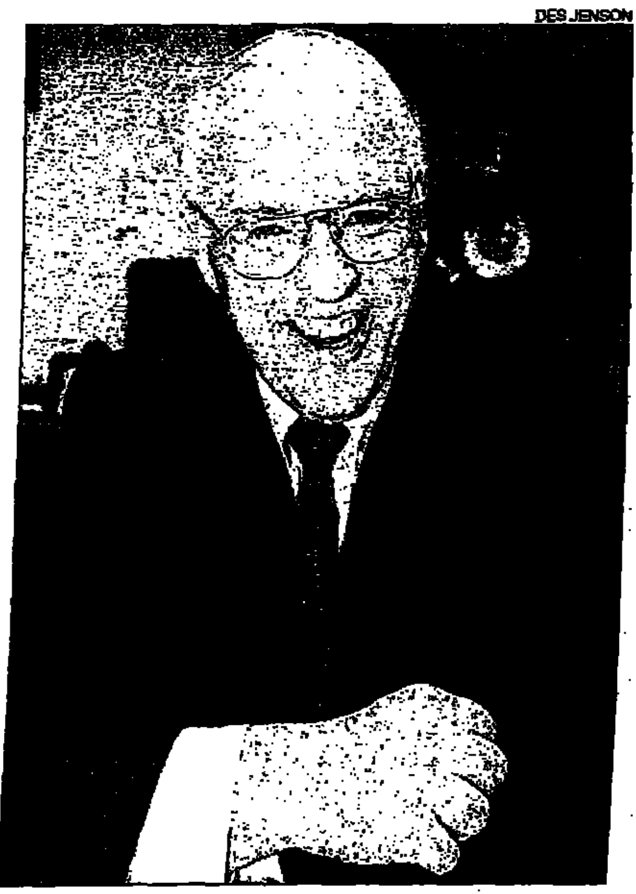
It could be argued, without too much stretching of the imagination, that this legislation contains abuses. It will allow Customs to make a direction on the basis of an event which occurs after November 28, 1995, which, in effect, rewrites the history of the group for VAT purposes. The result is a situation of some uncertainty for companies that are members of VAT groups, or who could be members. Provided the event that triggers the direction occurs after Budget day last year, the direction can have effect back to April 1, 1973, when the tax began. Moreover, the rights of appeal to the VAT tribunal against a direction are restrictive.

Landfill tax also contains its diabolical details. Most indirect taxes have a fairly standard provision that provides for the treatment of long-term contracts when tax is introduced or its rate changes. Essentially this enables the supplier to pass on the additional amount of tax as though it had been included when the contract was drawn up.

The landfill tax provision, however, allows the contract to be varied only if "the circumstances are such that (had the change occurred before the making of the contract) it can reasonably be expected that the parties to it would have agreed, as the amount of any payment falling to be made under it, an amount differing from that actually agreed".

The overall effect seems to be that both parties can argue about what they would have done had landfill tax been introduced at a time when neither of them actually knew anything about its existence! In addition, directors of a company liable to pay landfill tax will be jointly and severally liable to pay the tax with the company itself. Customs could pursue a non-executive director for any landfill tax liability of an insolvent company, regardless of the director's personal involvement or fault. Customs should be asked why they think it necessary to contemplate such an exceptional power. The only other taxes to which such a power applies are those on betting and gaming.

DES JENSON



New legislation poses uncertainties, says Richard Watson

For many years, late payment of VAT has involved a penalty surcharge, levied only after a warning notice has been given and at rates of between 2 per cent and 15 per cent of the unpaid tax. The landfill tax legislation replaces this with compound interest levied at 10 percentage points above the standard interest rate. Currently, this would allow Customs to levy interest at 17 per cent per annum (equivalent to paying 25 per cent before tax relief).

The question that needs to be asked of Customs is whether they are preparing to change their law on *all* their taxes similarly in favour of the tax collector? Customs are currently conducting a project known as Legis, designed to harmonise as far as possible the administrative procedures of the different taxes. It seems strange to introduce a number of peculiarities into landfill tax if it is not also intended to include them in other taxes.

Tax administration has long been seen as a balance between the taxpayer, who wants to pay the least amount, and the authorities, which want to collect the most. There is nothing inherently wrong or surprising in this, nor is there anything wrong in either side attempting to improve its position. The danger, as always, lies in excess, which renders the operation of the tax system impossible or inefficient. It would be foolish to suggest we are at that point, but if the Finance Bill is a barometer, it is pointing to "stormy".

Richard Watson is Senior VAT Partner, Price Waterhouse

Carrot and stick on the road to reform

THE problem with financial reporting is that the better it becomes, the more people want to improve it or to expand it further. Except, that is, for anyone on the inside looking out. This week saw the publication of the English ICA's twenty-seventh annual survey of published accounts*. As ever, it provides an excellent guide to how US reporting practice has developed over the past year and, as it has done increasingly, it provides a bit of a kick in the right direction towards apparent corporate laggards.

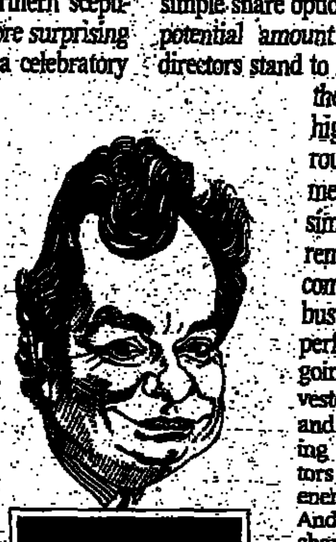
But the starting point has changed. Normally, there is a great deal of quite justified grumbling about the state of financial reporting. This year a different note is struck. Professor Len Skerratt is one of the longstanding editors of the book. He is an understanding but awkward soul, given to worrying away at things he doesn't like. Being professor at Manchester has honed his northern scepticism, which makes it all the more surprising that he seems to be sounding a celebratory note. Even before you get into the book proper, he has said in the preface that "an important feature of much of the analysis is that the abuses of the 1980s have been substantially reduced or eliminated by the financial reporting standards introduced by the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) over the past few years".

As I said, however, success breeds a desire for things to be even better. Hence Skerratt's next call for action — the whole issue of financial reporting to be widened progressively. Having sorted out many of the old familiar abuses and made accounts more transparent so that new ones are more easily spotted, the ASB, he argues, should be looking at fresh fields to conquer.

"Another important theme that runs through a number of the chapters," he says, "is that company accounts should extend beyond reporting a company's financial position and change in financial position over the year." He recognises the reasons behind this. "In part, such arguments have surfaced in recent years just because the ASB has been so successful in resolving many of the previous misinterpretations which gave rise to uninformative reporting." There are other forces at work. In Skerratt's words, "the change in emphasis is also a product of the economic environment, the recession. In this sense, there has been a real and significant change in the information needs of stakeholders in a company."

For Skerratt's idea — that progress should continue apace — to happen, there would have to be a significant element of stick rather than carrot applied to finance directors. The chapter in the survey devoted to directors' remuneration and directors' reports on internal financial control makes this very clear.

Roy Chandler is the Coopers & Lybrand Fellow at Cardiff Business School and his analysis of the disclosure of directors' remuneration gets to the heart of the problem. Put simply, he argues that if directors dig in their heels and refuse to go with the spirit of disclosure requirements then all you finish up with is more, rather than less, confusion. Chandler suggests that it is better to be imprecise but clear than pedantically correct and incomprehensible. He suggests that a simple share option calculation based on the potential amount of gain that individual directors stand to make and calculated from the past year's low, mid and high points, would provide a rough and understandable measure. The alternatives simply do not work. "Glib remarks from remuneration committees about being 'robust' in setting demanding performance targets' are not going to reassure many investors," he says. Over this, and many financial reporting issues, company directors are their own worst enemies. This is confirmed in Andrew Chambers's incisive chapter on the efforts of directors to report on internal financial control. Chambers points out that whereas the Cadbury report wanted auditors to report on the effectiveness of a company's internal financial control, a long political battle — mostly waged by finance directors — has resulted in the "effectiveness" element being removed. "It is the only part of the Cadbury Code of Best Practice to have been watered down in the implementation. Either finance directors, accountants and external auditors are more prescient than others, or they are more prepared to argue the hind leg off a donkey." And that is why the pace of reform of financial reporting will slow and why company directors have many more embarrassments ahead of them.



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ROBERT BRUCE

**Financial reporting 1995-96*, edited by Len Skerratt and David Tonkin, is published by *Accountancy Books at £63*.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Style of 'nurse' too hard to take

FOR the second time, the council members of the English ICA have balked at the idea of electing their first woman president. Instead, Chris Swinson, the rumbustious BDO Stoy Hayward partner, has won this year's ballot. The mild-mannered Michael Groom dropped out in the first round, and Swinson has won by a neck from Sheila Masters, of KPMG. It was a close-run thing. Swinson polled 43 votes and Masters 41. Presumably Masters's brisk "nurse-knows-best" approach to policy was too hard for council members to swallow.

Figuring it out

THE night that KPMG revealed their partners' pay coincided with a dinner of all the Big Six firms' senior partners and Stuart Bell, the Labour spokesman in charge of accountancy issues. Rumour has it that the new mood of the Labour Party approved of the size of the pay package of Colin Sharman, KPMG senior partner. Coincidentally, it was also the day when MPs announced that they should be paid more.

Eat for art's sake

ERNST & YOUNG are set to paint the town red during their sponsorship of the Cézanne exhibition, which opens at the Tate Gallery today. The firm is setting to the task with gusto. No fewer than 7,000 guests are due to attend 40 events, starting tonight with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and numerous chairmen and chief executives sitting down to dinner. And in the next few weeks a mountain of food will be consumed — according to E&Y: "Six thousand quails' eggs, 13,000 mushroom parcels and 630 pounds of fresh tuna." The paintings are also delectable, we can report.

On the other hand

DELOITTE & TOUCHE have always stood aloof in any of the arguments about firms avoiding litigation through setting up limited liability partnerships in Jersey. But that doesn't mean to say that they don't see a fee or two in the idea. Walbrook, the firm's offshore service subsidiary, has issued a brochure offering to advise anyone interested.

ROBERT BRUCE

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors qualifications, 1995

The RICS announces that the following candidates were admitted to corporate membership in 1995 having satisfied the examination requirements and passed the Assessment of Professional Competence.

Abbott D E; Abinger M; Abu E A; Ackerman B; Ackerman R P; Adam C A; Adams D J; Adams D M; Addai J P; Adderley S J; Adnitt J M C; Agbachi C P E; Agnew R A; Agyekumhene S A; Ahern P; Ahier P B; Ahmad A Z; Ainge S A; Aitchison A T M; Ajoh A A; Akinmolayan P O O; Alburt J E; Aldous J; Alfayez M A; Allan F I M; Allan R B; Allard R G; Allcock S G; Allen D K; Allen J E; Allison S H; Amies C J; Anam C M; Anderson A I; Anderson C E; Anderson D Y; Anderson I; Anderson J R; Andersson P E; Anderton J E; Andrew P; Andrews C L; Andrews W H H; Appleby C J; Appleby C S; Arista V J; Armitage R M; Armstrong F A; Armstrong F N; Armstrong H; Armstrong M S; Armstrong M W; Arnold S M J; Arnott K; Arrandale P J; Arundel J C; Asamoah W A; Asbury R C W; Ashworth S J; Askew W J; Athinodorou K; Atkinson A W; Attrill K J; Au C C D; Au R H B; Au Yeung S K X; Ault A D; Austin D C; Austin D E; Aylmer T B; Aylward S T

Bach P A; Bacha S; Bailey C D; Bailey J P; Bailey J S; Baines K B; Baker A C; Baker S G; Baldwin C R; Bamiro F; Banks R A; Barber J P; Barbour G B; Bareham P A; Barge O F; Barlow S J; Barnard J E; Barnes J D; Barnes P M; Barnes S F; Barnett H P; Barr M J; Barraclough S; Barron J L; Barrow M P; Bartlett R H; Bashford R J; Baskerville J E; Bateman A J; Bateman O M; Bates C S; Batten H C; Baugh S M; Baughan D C; Baxter P; Baxter S G; Bayne D; Beacham J T; Beake A P; Beasley T A; Bebbington A; Beck E A; Beck P J; Beckerman C; Bedwell J; Beech H E; Beer C D; Beg A; Beggs M J W; Begley R G; Belcher D L; Bell A J; Bell N A; Bellau S J; Bellord R N; Belshaw D G; Benbow S P; Bennett A J; Bennett G; Bennett J M; Bennett M J P; Bennett N; Bennett N C; Bennett P V; Bennett R J; Berresford S; Berrisford D M; Berry J; Berry-McIntosh M E; Bessant G R; Bevan M L; Bevan N J; Bhalla P K; Bidwell E L F; Biel-Gleeson E; Bignell A R; Birch P M J; Bird M G; Bird R A; Birtwistle A P; Bishop G E; Bishop J M; Bishop T; Bishop T J; Bishton P S; Bisset N A; Black E G; Blackmore P J; Blair D Z; Blair F H; Blake R M; Blakey S M; Blanche M W D; Blazeby C A H; Bloomer R A; Bogle C; Bolton I R; Bone S T; Boolaky G; Boonham S C; Boruch J P; Bottone D M; Bourgeois M R; Bourne C; Boutle L J; Bowden S M; Bowman D J; Bown M I; Boxall I D W; Boyd D M E; Boyden D A C; Boyle J F; Boyle O; Bracewell G J S J; Brachi J A; Bradbury G D; Bradley S R; Bradshaw G; Bradshaw H M; Bradshaw N E; Brafield R J; Bragg I P; Braithwaite S J; Bramley O C; Brammer B D; Branion J M; Brauweiler D A; Breen C I; Breen P G; Bremford A J; Brennan T G; Broadhurst A J; Brock R V; Brocklesby M J; Broder H; Bromell M W; Bromley A D; Bromwich T; Brooks J D; Brooks J W; Brough P R; Brown D G; Brown S E; Brown S G; Browne A G; Browning G D; Browning R G; Brownlow M A B; Bruce M R D; Bruce N E J; Bruehl M J; Brundle P D; Bruno C M; Bryan J M; Bryant J R; Bryning I B; Buchan R D; Buchanan A E; Buchanan R W; Buckland N J; Buckley P G; Buckley W T C; Bulpett C E; Bulpin A P; Bulpitt R J; Bunker C M; Bunting L P; Bunyan D L; Burdett G B A; Burke J D; Burns B G; Burns H L; Burr K R; Burrell M T; Burridge B J; Burt S J; Burton T A; Bush C D; Butcher D J; Butler M P; Butler R A; Butt C L; Byrne I

Cadell A P; Cafearo H C; Cahalane T J; Cahill M A; Caird-Daley A K; Callander S; Calver S; Calvert G F M; Camp J L; Campbell B; Campbell D M; Campbell M W R; Campos P; Carden M W; Carlisle C D; Carmody P J; Carnegy D N; Carolin P; Carpenter S J; Carr A J L; Carr P D; Carrigan T L; Carroll P J D; Carson J M K; Carter A; Carter A P; Carter D J; Carter N T; Cartwright E A; Caseley V M; Casey J A; Cash J S F; Cassels C I K; Casson N P; Castell C V M; Castle S J; Cate P L; Cattermole R J; Caulfield J J; Cawley S R; Chadwick R E; Chalmers I M; Chalmers J; Chamberlain A; Chamberlain K; Chamberlain N; Chambers B J; Chambers F M; Chan B H R; Chan C H A; Chan C S J; Chan C Y; Chan E W K; Chan H C; Chan H L A; Chan K; Chan M W A; Chan M Y; Chan S C L; Chan S H; Chan T K; Chan Y C; Chan Y F; Chan Y K; Chan Y M; Chan Chi Wah C W; Chan Mi-Hing T; Chan Ngai Min Y; Chang Y C; Channer A D; Chapman P M; Chapman R H C; Chatham A; Chau K F F; Cheetham W A; Chen K T T; Cheng K M; Cheng K W; Cheng M; Cheng Y H D; Cheng Y H F; Cheng Y W F; Chetwood C J; Cheu Y Y; Cheung E C W; Cheung K S; Cheung M F; Cheung W F E; Chin W Y; Chinery D L; Ching P T; Ching Wong Y N; Chisholm D S; Chittenden M C; Chitty J D; Chivers J W E; Cho Yat-Sau C; Chow K F M; Chow W C; Chow W M A; Christie C; Christfi J P; Chu C Y; Chu K F; Chu L T J; Chu S K A; Chu S Y F; Chui K L; Chung F H R; Chung K F; Chung K H; Churchill A P; Clark C S A; Clark D J; Clark J; Clark J E; Clark J R; Clark P J; Clarke D S; Clarke J G; Clarke P M P; Clatworthy G J; Clatworthy J; Claxton R J; Clayson R G; Cleaver V E; Clewes D G; Close R R; Clover B R G; Coakley P P; Cockburn P J; Cockerton N; Cockhill I A; Cocks C J; Coghlan M F; Colclough S J; Cole R D; Collier M E; Collin J M A; Collins J L; Collins S A; Collins-Jones G; Colpitts S A; Combe P A; Combes M R; Comyn D J; Connolly D J; Connolly P A J; Connor J M; Connor S T; Cook L R; Cooke P M; Cookham M R; Cookson L E; Cooling B M A; Cooper D P; Cooper J M; Cooper J M; Cooper M R; Cooper N J; Coote N L; Cope K M; Copley J V; Coppell R A; Corbett P A; Corkish A D; Corkish C V R; Cornes H L; Cornwell I H M; Corpe S M; Corran S P; Corrigan A M; Corrigan O M; Cossiett S; Cottee G M; Coulling J R; Courts N C I; Cova M B; Cowell C; Cox A E; Cox D G; Coxall C J; Craib J; Craig T L; Craven N A; Crawford G; Crawford I A; Crawford J B; Crawford W E J; Crawshaw J; Crease H J; Crew D; Crewther A B; Crimes R A; Crisp P; Croall A; Crocombe R W; Crosfield J M; Cross M A; Crossland C E; Crotty S M P; Crowland G T; Crowley A; Crowley W; Crowther P E J; Croydon C; Croydon P; Cruiks K D; Cullen C; Cunningham S J; Curd B V; Curran C E; Curran P

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Iles A W; Illingworth M P; Ingledew V J; Ireland N J P; Irvin T D; Irving P A; Isles B N

Jackson D R; Jackson G; Jackson N R; Jackson R; Jackson S H; Jackson T M; Jacobs D P; Jacques R E; Jagger T D; James R A; James R K; Jameson K M; Jamieson A R; Jamieson W S; Jarvis P A; Jassy S S; Jefferson R E; Jeffery A B; Jeffrey JdM; Jenkins J; Jenney G; Jennings A C; Jenvey D G; Jervis G C R; Jeynes D R; Johns S B R; Johnson A V F J; Johnson D R; Johnson G; Johnson H M; Johnson K C; Johnson M C; Johnston A R; Jones A R; Jones A R; Jones B M; Jones C; Jones H L; Jones J A; Jones J P; Jones K; Jones K L; Jones N L; Jones N P; Jones N S; Jones O L; Jones P F; Jones R; Jones R D; Jones R J; Jones R L; Jones S D B; Jones T N; Joseland R; Joseph G A A; Juhlke A; Justice D R F

Kam K S A; Kam W K; Kan S K; Kane J N; Kay L; Keaney P M; Kearney A C; Keating B J; Keats M J; Keenan D M; Keller N F; Kelly D A; Kelly J; Kemper G K; Kendall S E K; Kennard A M; Kennedy A; Kennedy M R; Kennedy P; Kennedy P; Keohane A; Kerry J P; Kershaw I J; Kerslake I S; Kessebohm-Schlegel S; Keys J R; Keys R I; Kidd D J; Kidd S N; Kiernan L; Kilroy J G; Kilvington S L; Kimble S A; King A J; King C A; King M S; King P A; King P J; King R J; King T A; Kingdon S R; Kingston A R; Kingswell A M; Kinloch T R; Kirby R F; Kirk C R; Kirkham R J; Kirkwood G S; Kirrage S F; Kirwan P C; Kitson C J; Kneale B J; Knellar D E J; Knight J G; Knowles A P; Knowles S P; Ko S K; Konadu F Y; Koo W Y; Kosmaczewski K J; Kozlowski C M; Kuang Sau Chun; Kut M E; Kwan C; Kwok A C O; Kwok C L; Kwok F H L; Kwok K M; Kwok S H D; Kwong C L; Kwong K L; Kwong S W; Kwong W L G; Kyne P J

Laidlaw J K; Laine B; Lam C H; Lam M H; Lam S H; Lam S M; Lam Y H; Lambert M P; Landy S J; Lane A W T; Langdon T S; Lau A K C; Lau C S; Lau C Y; Lau K M C; Lau S Y; Lau W K; Lau Y M; Laughton J J; Laurie I N; Lavalette B D; Laverack J M; Law C O; Law E C Y; Law L F O; Law S C; Law S F; Law Yee Shan S; Lawn T J; Lawson A; Lawson A E; Lawson C H; Lawson D; Lawson S A; Lawson V R; Lawson-Dick K J; Laycock S D; Layram C P; Lazenbury A W; Leach S M; Leacock H C; Leader M; Leahy F M; Leatham T R; Lee A C S; Lee A G; Lee C L; Lee C S; Lee J D; Lee K C; Lee K C K; Lee L P F; Lee P K F; Lee R A; Lee S; Lee W K J; Lee Y Y; Lee Heng Teang H T; Leeks R J; Leffers-Smith G M; Legge T G; Leigh J E; Leng P W S; Leslie D H M; Leslie M; Lester D; Lester N D; Leung C C; Leung K H; Leung K K; Leung L F C; Leung O K; Leung S Y W; Leung T L; Leung T M; Leung Y M; Lever J; Levy G M; Levy J; Lewis G; Lewis G; Lewis J K; Lewis S H; Lewis S N; Li C C; Li C M E; Li K S; Li K Y B; Li M L; Li Sun Wai M; Liddell A J; Lifely G R; Lightfoot B J H; Lightfoot J D; Lilley C E; Lindre J; Lindsay I D; Lindsay J S; Little A; Little A J; Little K W; Liu W M; Liversedge S C; Lo H C; Lo K S; Lo M W; Lo S P Y; Lo S Y; Lo T C; Locke S J; Locksley K A; Loi W C P; Lok Y M A; Long C L; Long R S; Longbottom J B; Longley B A; Longstaff A M; Louey W H; Loughlin S J; Lovack S W; Lown M J; Lowne S N; Luck S A W; Luckhoo C J; Lui P F; Lui S S O; Luk C S; Luk H Y; Luk W H; Luke P; Lumsdaine C N; Lundy C; Lunn J N; Lunn S P; Lynch K; Lynch R F; Lynch S; Lyons P A

Ma P F; Ma S C; Ma'awiah M; MacArthur R G; MacKenzie A K G; MacKenzie J M; MacLeod D L; MacLeod M M; Mackey L F; Maclaren A J D; Maclaren D B; Macpherson J D; Macrae D M; Mager N G; Maguire J C; Maharaj B R; Mair S J; Mak H S R; Makarudze J E; Makris A; Malam P J; Mallams J J; Malley S C; Mallon B; Maltby A K; Man C C; Man J K; Man Kin-Wa A; Mancini A; Mannering M J; Manning D B; March C M; March M; Marchant G; Marcus J R; Marden T A; Markham J; Marling K J; Marsh J E; Marshall C A; Martin D-J S; Martin J E H; Martin P L; Martin V C; Martin W J; Martins J R; Mascia M L; Mason A J; Mason A R; Mason B; Mason D T D; Mason T J H; Masoud N; Masson N S; Mathers A; Mathew C P C; Mathieson D G; Mathieson D J; Mathieson J M; Matthews M V; Matthews R L; Maund R B; Maunder Taylor N B; Mawhinney D; Mawson J M; Maxted J P; May P; May R D; Maybank T; Mayer P D; Mayes S T; Mbanje C P T; McAllister D; McAuliffe L J; McBeath J R; McCall-Smith B S; McCann A B T; McCann D J; McCarron E; McCarthy C A; McCarthy P J; McCarthy R T; McCausland G J; McChesney M P; McClymont D; McCusker E M; McDermott J M; McDonnell A A; McDougall J P; McDowell A P; McEwan E C; McGarry I M; McGartland G J; McGarva S W; McGuire D A; McIntyre M R; McKee I F; McKee P W; McKee T C; McKellar B J; McKendrick C; McKenzie J G; McKiernan F E; McKinstry J M; McLachlan S R; McLellan A; McManners A; McMurtrie A J; McNair N R; McNicholl G H; McNulty A C; McPhail S D; McQuillan W H; McVicar M A; McWilliam C D; Meacham D R E; Mearns C E; Medley R G; Meister D J; Meldrum D C; Melia M S; Meredith J R; Merry F S; Micah D G; Michaels J M; Middleton F M; Middleton R B; Midforth D S; Midmer J E; Milburn J M; Mileham D L; Mileham E; Miles I T; Miles S; Millar C J A; Millar G J; Millar I S; Millard T J; Milledge S Z; Miller C F; Miller D; Miller D J; Miller D M; Miller S A; Miller S H; Miller S P; Milligan N; Milling G J; Millington R S; Millington S A; Mills A; Mills A P; Milne N M; Milne P A; Milnes C B; Minford A R; Mitchell A G; Mitchell P J; Mitchell R S; Moinet R G; Moisson K E; Mok Y C; Moles S A; Monk R F; Monk R G; Moody W M; Moon J; Moore C; Moore C K W; Moore I P; Moore J R; Moore M G; Moore P; Moorley A B; Mooroogan N; Moran D; Morey N R; Morgan C; Morgan E E; Morgan H G; Morgan H W; Morgan J C; Morgan R A; Morgan R D; Morgan R P; Morgan S W; Morgan Miller S; Morley C J; Morley C W G; Morris A; Morris A J; Morris A P; Morris C A; Morris J M W; Morris R G; Morrison A J; Morrison W J; Morrogh-Ryan D G O; Mortimer S E; Moscrop J G; Moseley K G; Moss J D; Moss J K; Moss S N; Moston M J; Muggeridge B J; Muir A C; Muir C J G; Muir W; Mukonde E M; Mullan B R; Mullan R J; Muller A C; Mullin M M; Munday J R; Munday P A; Munnings S J; Murdock P K; Murphy A M; Murphy E P; Murphy J P; Murphy L J J; Murphy P M; Murphy T J; Murray M B; Murray M S; Murray P D; Murray R N; Murto S K; Musker A J M; Mussi P L; Mutty R P

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Underwood S; Urquhart A

Van Gelder N W; Vaughan M R; Venables R L; Verity S J; Vernon N D; Vest G R; Villis S; Vivian C A J; Vogelaar J; Vong P C P; Voss A J

Waddilove B J; Wade J M; Wadsworth T M; Wagner K F J; Wai W H; Wainwright L P; Waite M; Walker K D; Walker M C; Walker P B; Walker P F; Walker P S; Walker R A; Walker S; Walker S H M; Wallace I T; Wallbank F M; Waller S R C; Wallhead A J; Wallis A K; Wallis J N; Walsh B A; Walshe M S; Walters A P; Walton R J; Wan C W D; Wan Y W; Ward C; Ward M G; Ward P D; Ward P J; Ward S L H; Ward-Booth K J; Ware T R; Wares J M; Watkins L A; Watkinson C J; Watson A D; Watson A L; Watson C R; Watson J W D; Watt J M; Watts P G; Weatherston N W; Weatherstone S; Webb D J; Webb P J; Webb S E; Webber V L; Webster A J; Webster C H; Weekes J H; Weiner M S; Weintroub E L; Welbourn T; Wellbeloved M K; Wells D J; Wells J S; Wellstead C; Welsby S E; Werth J N; West B N; West N A; West P D C; West R G; Westropp P J R; Westwood J P; Wetherelt A; Whattam G; Wheater M C; Whelan C A; Whiffen P R; Whinfield M P; Whitledge R J; Whiston J C; White A R; White C E; White D J; White D T; White I A; White J G; White R P; Whitehead L C; Whitehill J D; Whitehouse J M E; Whitelaw A; Whitfield C R; Whitfield M A; Whitmore A L; Wickens H; Wickerson I; Widdowson S; Widdowson S C; Wideman K; Wiggins D M; Wigley S J; Wilcock H D; Wilde C; Wildman A J F; Wilkinson A S C G; Wilkinson M A; Wilkinson S; Willans P; Willcock D; Willey C A; Willey I; Williams D L; Williams E H; Williams H; Williams P; Williams P D; Williams R J; Williams S J; Williams S L; Williams S V; Williamson L; Williamson M D; Willis K D; Willis S C; Willis S D; Willmore P D; Wilson D M; Wilson F J; Wilson J C; Wilson K J; Wilson N M D; Wilson S M; Wilton O; Winter A S; Winter A W; Winthrop A; Wittrick A R; Wong C K; Wong C K A; Wong C L; Wong H; Wong H C; Wong I W L; Wong K H A; Wong K M; Wong K M B; Wong K Y; Wong L Y J; Wong M C P; Wong M K; Wong P K; Wong W S; Wong Y K M; Wong Chaw Kok C K; Wong Chi Ming S; Wong Tze Min N; Wong Wing Shan V; Woo T; Wood A G; Wood C B; Wood G; Wood J L; Wood P J; Wood S E; Woodford P J G; Woodford S S; Woodrough J D; Woodruff J G; Woods D; Woollen R E; Wootten B S; Worsman J B; Woss E A; Wright A J; Wright C L; Wright T R; Wu J M; Wu Kim Man C; Wyatt A K; Wyatt P J; Wyles J W; Wynne B N; Wyre A A

Xie Y; Xie Z

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Brit Fndmtls Acc	114.10	121.40	+ 0.10	4.82
Brit Fndmtls Inc	79.90	85.00	+ 0.07	4.82
Global Opps	108.10	106.50	+ 0.50	0.15
Balanced Acc	82.27	88.19	+ 0.05	2.88
Balanced Inc	59.93	63.34	+ 0.05	2.88
Japan Acc	48.09	51.17	+ 0.29	
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0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	131.40	139.40	+ 0.60	7.17
High Inc Equity	178.40	191.90†	+ 0.10	4.39
Worldwide Bond	288.90	306.40†	+ 0.30	4.57
American Growth	350.70	375.20†	+ 3.00	0.58
Asian Pacific	349.70	374.00	- 0.70	0.11
Assets & Earnings	296.40	315.30	+ 0.40	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	168.90	178.50	+ 0.90	0.58
Extra Inc	44.56	47.40†	+ 0.05	8.48
General	270.70	288.00†	+ 0.40	2.89
Global Opps	63.07	67.73	+ 0.24	0.44
Japan	128.50	137.40	+ 0.30	
Managed Inc	48.83	51.10†	+ 0.07	4.55
Mastertrust	162.40	173.70	+ 0.40	1.40
US Emerging Cos	184.70	196.50	+ 3.30	
Ethical	75.83	80.67	- 0.05	2.52
International	135.10	143.70	+ 0.50	0.71
Dividend & Growth	66.72	70.98†	+ 0.06	4.32
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ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2051.00	2134.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.01	60.24	+ 0.30	0.51
Cash	50.48	50.48		5.79
Emerging Mkts	73.40	77.70	- 0.12	0.04
European	134.80	140.00†	+ 0.70	
Europe	1015.20	1086.20†	+ 3.70	1.71
Extra Income #	48.58	52.13		8.52
Far East Emg Eco	133.00	139.60	+ 0.20	0.45
Fixed Interest #	23.55	24.50†		9.58
Fund Inv Tst	161.90	170.00†	+ 0.10	9.15
Japan	189.40	197.00		
Latin American	56.21	58.92	- 0.34	0.83
Pacific	87.92	92.32	+ 0.11	0.28
Property Share	63.30	66.44†	+ 0.24	2.64
UK Emerging Cos	69.11	74.11†	+ 0.03	1.87
UK Growth	50.48	53.39	- 0.08	2.30
Aber World Port #	81.23	82.77	- 0.06	1.98
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0171 606 0708				
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American Portfolio	117.40	124.64	+ 1.09	0.92
European Portfolio	117.15	124.78	+ 0.99	0.46
High Income	51.29	51.41†	+ 0.21	7.75
Japanese Portfolio	70.41	74.85†	+ 0.22	
Pacific Portfolio	161.86	174.05	- 0.69	1.35
UK Inc & Growth	91.78	98.03	- 0.03	2.88
Utility & Bond	58.00	58.67	- 0.05	6.50
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	743.20	754.50	+ 3.87	4.27
Fxd Int.Sec	155.96	157.58	- 1.85	8.07
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Investment Acc	632.94	633.44	+ 12.48	
Fixed Int Inc	128.43	128.95	- 0.66	8.92
Fixed Int Acc	218.53	219.41	- 1.48	
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Beck Bio-Tech	53.10	57.40†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	168.50	176.94		0.81
City Fin Assets	78.45	82.38		2.03
City Fin America	115.34	121.12	+ 0.73	
City Fin Intl	93.75	98.45	+ 0.58	0.82
City Fin Japan	154.84	162.60†	- 1.74	
Friars Hse Cap	306.16	330.71†		2.30
Friars Hse Inc	203.63	216.63		4.11
Stockley Yield Gwth	144.56	157.83	+ 0.46	
Fairmont Cap Gth	150.12	158.92		
Fairmount Intl	162.02	170.55		
J Sth Inc/Gth Inc	57.06	59.94†		1.57
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0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
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American Gwth	76.37	81.24	+ 0.49	
Dragon Growth	76.00	81.38	- 0.22	0.47
Equity High Inc	90.32	96.08	- 0.01	4.05
-do- Accum	126.24	134.30	- 0.01	4.05
Extra Income Inc	26.43	27.82†	+ 0.10	7.30
Extra Income Acc	27.83	29.30	+ 0.11	7.30
European Gwth	59.94	63.60	+ 0.24	0.99
Evergreen	29.94	32.82	+ 0.05	
General Equity	97.27	103.20	- 0.10	2.07
Japan Growth	52.88	56.27	+ 0.03	
Pedigree Gwth	58.98	62.72		2.56
Ped Sml Cos Inc	34.68	36.90	+ 0.01	1.51
-do- Accum	36.62	38.85	+ 0.01	1.51
Retirement Inc #	27.97	29.75	+ 0.02	5.77
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COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
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Capital	78.39	81.65	+ 0.02	1.86
High Income	50.78	52.87	+ 0.15	
Top 50	53.12	56.33	- 0.01	
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
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Equity Inc	180.25	191.76	+ 0.44	4.56
Fixed & Convertible	41.24	43.87†	+ 0.04	6.71
Monthly Inc Plus	49.51	52.67	+ 0.17	8.51
Preference Share	46.90	49.88†	+ 0.14	7.62
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	133.85	142.39†	+ 0.12	5.71
Managed Fund	75.78	80.62	+ 0.15	2.92
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	45.41	48.31	+ 0.04	1.68
-do- Accum	52.85	56.22	+ 0.04	1.68
UK & General	91.24	97.08	+ 0.07	2.63

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	101.50	107.00		3.58
Sector Value Gwth	101.70	107.20	- 0.10	2.24
Hy 5 Europe	98.55	103.30		2.42
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	215.80	229.80	- 2.40	
Income #	193.45	205.80†	+ 0.59	4.15
UK Growth	75.73	80.56†	- 0.03	2.13
International	84.74	90.13†	+ 0.24	0.47
Ecology	97.01	103.20	+ 0.55	1.04
European	155.21	165.12	+ 0.90	
Far Eastern	318.50	338.80	+ 0.10	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
N Amer Growth	129.79	136.30		0.79
Special Sits Growth	24.92	26.51		2.07
UK Growth	427.39	454.67		2.61
-do- Accum	572.85	609.41		2.61
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01620 825867				
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High Yield	148.30	157.80†	- 0.30	5.68
-do- Accum	472.00	502.10†	- 1.00	5.68
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Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Small Cos	138.00	146.80	+ 0.30	
Asian Growth	365.10	388.40	- 5.50	0.21
-do- Accum	429.10	456.50	- 6.50	0.21
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European	171.40	182.30	+ 0.80	0.45

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-do- Accum	201.00	211.60†	+ 0.20	2.10
UK Sel Pfolio	149.40	157.20	- 0.40	2.49
-do- Accum	177.50	186.90	- 0.40	2.49
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01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	76.32	81.19		3.50
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0131 479 4846				
Intl Income	82.19	87.25	+ 0.09	3.75
European	97.54	103.50†	+ 0.30	0.79
Income #	81.43	86.44†	+ 0.16	4.78

هكذا في الاصل

Losses across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
568	476½	Allied Domecq†	511	+ 4½	5.8	18.5
554	390	Bulmer (HP)†	554	+ 5	2.8	17.4
146	93	Burn Stewart	121		5.2	26.0
467	352	Grand Met	436	+ 1	4.3	15.3
475	404	Guinness	452	- 4½	3.9	14.0
345	315	Highland Dist	331		3.4	15.0
217	157	Macallan-Glen	160	- 5	1.0	36.5
710	600	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	633		2.2	17.8
694	532	Matthew Clark	663	+ 10	3.1	
140	61	Merrydwn W	104	+ 1	2.4	
2612½	1287½	S.A. Breweries	2452½	+ 37½	1.6	33.3

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3295½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2821½	- 6½	4.4	10.7
663	413	Abbey Nat	600	- 4	4.0	12.0
385	250	Allied Irish	362	- 1	4.0	10.5
336	198	Aus New Z	320	- 6	5.0	
4462½	2531½	Bank America	4462½	+ 25		
315	191½	Bank Scotland	292½	- 1½	2.6	12.9
812½	557½	Barclays	789	- 9	3.8	10.8
488	298	Bk of Ireland	460		3.7	9.2
525	418	Cater Allen	460		7.8	7.9
4868½	3450	Citicorp†	4862½	+ 25		
370	216½	Close Bros	358	- 1	3.0	15.9
2162½	2139½	Commerzbk	£153½	- 121½	3.4	
1375	997½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1265½	+ 25	0.4	
3312½	2775	Deutsche Bk	3234½	+ 94	2.1	
1671	1138½	Fuji Bank Y	1481½	+ 31½	0.4	
490	395	Gerrard Nat	456		6.2	14.7
253	180	Hambros	201	- 1	4.1	
1125	589	HSBC	1091	+ 2	3.2	14.2
1099	578	HSBC 10p	1068	+ 5	3.3	13.9
421	329	Jarsh Pearn	415		2.9	8.6
463	353	Joseph (L)	453		5.2	15.6
184	85	King Shaxson	184	+ 4	6.9	12.7
350	308	Lloyds TSB	327			
640	479	Nat Aust Bk	628	- 1	6.5	8.6
697	454	Nat West	667	- 3	4.1	10.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	60		2.7	24.0
630½	373½	Royal Bk Scotl	558	+ 2	3.6	12.6
1478	906½	Schroders	1255	- 15	1.4	17.9
1180	823½	Schroders N/V	1003	- 15	1.8	14.3
111	81	Singer & Fried	105		4.1	10.9
662½	246	Stand Chart	615	- 2	1.8	15.5
121	78	Union	100		3.8	
£163½	9043½	Wells Fargo†	£163½	+ 143½	1.8	
317½	211	Westpac	305	+ ½	4.5	
305	200	Woolwich	305		4.9	17.2

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■ FILM 1

Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel, *A Little Princess*, is updated into a magical movie

■ FILM 2

In the overblown *Clockers* Spike Lee roams the mean streets in search of an anti-drug message

THE TIMES ARTS FILMS

■ FILM 3

Robert Rodriguez's *Desperado* proves to be a chic bloodbath led by the fast-rising Antonio Banderas

■ FILM 4

Keanu Reeves flounders into cyberspace for a 21st-century mistake called *Johnny Mnemonic*

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** hails the unlikely success of an inexperienced director and an old-fashioned children's story

This princess of hearts has grace in spades

A Little Princess really has no right to be so good. The director, Alfonso Cuarón, is a Mexican whose only previous cinema movie was *Love in the Time of Hysteria*, a sex comedy with an Aids background. Scouring the cast list for stars, you find Eleanor Bron plus a heap of nobodies. The story it tells, updated from Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel, was good enough for Mary Pickford in 1917 and Shirley Temple in 1939; but this is 1996, and we don't take to spoilt, self-assured little girls with fancy white coats and frilly hats. Shouldn't this film make the stomach heave?

No. A miracle has occurred and a minor masterpiece is born, right from the moment when Captain Crewe tells his young daughter Sara that she "always will be my little princess" and the two dance on ship deck beneath twinkling lights. Burnett set her story in Victorian London, but here it is 1914, and Sara is en route from a luxurious life in India to a boarding school in New York, where she seems like someone from another planet. As father leaves for the First World War, headmistress Miss Minchin (Eleanor Bron) remarks what a pleasure it will be to take charge of so charming a girl.

But behind Minchin's smile lies a battle-axe who bans all make-believe after Sara disrupts the school's dull calm by spinning stories of Indian myth. Then, when news suggests Captain Crewe is no more (along with his money), the prize pupil is stripped of all splendour to join the drudge Becky, a black girl, in her dingy quarters in a Gothic tower. Minchin reckons, however, without the power of the imagination; and the same power that sustains Sara keeps the film glowing with wit and splendour.

Displaying uncommon mastery of Hollywood resources, Cuarón weaves a path through three different worlds, conjured up on the studio sound stages and a backlot street exterior. The tales Sara tells from the legend of Ramayana come in eye-popping oranges, yellows and creamy whites. The school she spins them in is a menacing dark green. Then, with one snip of the editor's scissors, we squat in the trenches of the First World War, smoke looming, planes diving. Every visual mood is exaggerated, fit for a picture book; yet the artifice is never stifling.

The performances are pitched with equal care. Sara could easily appear an insufferable darling, but Liesel Matthews never slips into saccharine smiles. Bron's Minchin is no pantomime ogre, but a genuinely malevolent figure born of spite and repression, and Liam Cunningham lends gravity to the stock figure of the noble father fighting the Hun.

Richard LaGravenese and Elizabeth Chandler's script pays its dues to political correctness, with glancing treatments of oppression through sex and colour, but they never distort Burnett's plot. The only flaw lies with the composer Patrick Doyle: a film so satisfying and replete with magic deserves something better than his banal score.

With Hollywood's other offerings we plunge back into the routine. Gunshots. Blood. Dead bodies. **Clockers** thrusts them in our faces in an opening collage of crime photographs from the New York sidewalks. Having begun his movie in hob-nailed boots, Spike Lee stomps for two more hours as Brooklyn kids get sucked into the spiral of drugs and crime while Harvey Keitel's homicide cop breathes down their necks.

"You are selling your own people death!"; "You ain't nothing but a bunch of death-dealing scum!": every 15 minutes or so mothers and cops turn on their siren wail. One scene collides with the next like cars crashing. Behind the camera, Lee plays rough-textured images against smooth, scatters video game footage: anything to jolt our arm. Lee's social commitment may be exemplary, but his passion is no excuse for bad, ostentatious film-making.

The pity is that *Clockers* could have been different. It stems from a fat novel by Richard Price about life in the housing projects and the low-grade dealers who work round the clock. Martin Scorsese was originally to direct; in the event *Casino* called, although he stayed to produce. Even with Lee's film you can glimpse something better lurking inside. You note how the cops handle a corpse with the finesse of a butcher manhandling a chicken. You feel the peer pressure among the kids, for whom crack seems the gateway to success. But then Lee mounts his soapbox; the film thunders on, then limps to a weak conclusion.

There is even more violence in **Desperado**: after one barroom apocalypse, the blood needs mopping from the floor. This film is Robert Rodriguez's reward for making a hit of his shoestring lark *El Mariachi*: he gets to play with Columbia's millions and bags a fast-rising star, Antonio Banderas, for his lead.

The material is much the same. The Mariachi character, a balladeer with a guitar case full of guns, tangles with drug barons and a lady of dubious loyalties. At first, Banderas's hair is swept back, Latin charm in full view. Then he becomes an unkempt, scowling demon, shooting ostensibly for revenge, although we never feel his moral superiority. People are killed for the sake of it (one corpse is Quentin Tarantino's); death is worth only a joke.

Rodriguez's black humour and cheeky approach to low-budget film-making made *El Mariachi* a beguiling affair. The capering looks much less attractive in plush surroundings which demand a degree of control this young maverick cannot offer. *Desperado* soon grows repetitive, and trades genuine excitement for a chic bloodbath.

Meanwhile, Keanu Reeves is having a problem. In **Johnny Mnemonic**, his information courier is carrying 320 gigabytes worth of data in a brain that can only cope with 160. If Johnny does not download soon, he could implode. He is also suffering from memory deprivation. He wants a life — or, as Reeves expresses it in a heartfelt cry, "I want room service. I want my shirts laundered."

Laughing at this dreadful film is the audience's means of survival. Everything was geared for fashionable success: a story by William Gibson, the writer who thought up "cyberspace"; direction by Robert Longo, the American conceptual artist; and Reeves, newly popular after *Speed*. But the hands that saved a runaway bus are ill-suited to saving the planet from Nerve Attenuation Syndrome. For that you want some signs of emotion; you certainly want a better script and a director who gives actors guidance.

Longo, however, appears too wrapped up in technical gadgets to notice human beings. Not so Eric Rohmer, veteran of the French New Wave and 75 this year. Like most of his films, **Rendez-vous in Paris** flits along on the charms of young people talking, walking, flirting and manoeuvering through the streets and parks of Paris. He does not go in for post-production sheen: in some scenes you can hear the camera's motor whirring. Any artifice is reserved for his script, which presents three tales of love affairs spiked by chance meetings.

Do people really talk in Rohmerese, finding elegant words for all shades of emotions, seeking parallels in park statuary or a Picasso painting? Maybe not, but Rohmer's gift for coaxing natural performances from young actors makes us believe they do. The last segment, a hesitation waltz between a painter, a Swedish visitor and a women encountered at the Picasso museum, is especially crisp and delicious.

There are greater Rohmer films than this featherweight affair; but who else among current directors shows such directness, such sensitivity to people and places, such obliviousness to fashion?

The Loch Ness monster may be a boon to the tourist trade, but it appears to do film-makers no good. In 1934 *The Secret of the Loch* failed to charm. Now **Loch Ness** wastes its potential by chasing pretty scenery, acting quaint, and mooning over the personal problems of Ted Danson, the American zoologist sent to nail the myth with a sonar scan (*see interview below*). Joely Richardson provides romance; John Henderson, from British TV and commercials, directs. It is very dull, but harmless.

A Little Princess
Warner West End
U, 97 mins
Marvellous adaptation of the children's book

Clockers
Empire 2, 18, 128 mins
Spike Lee says "Say no to drugs"

Desperado
Warner West End
18, 105 mins
El Mariachi *again, but lightning does not strike twice*

Johnny Mnemonic
Warner West End
15, 96 mins
Futuristic folly with Keanu Reeves

Rendez-vous in Paris
Renoir, PG, 100 mins
Fresh air from Eric Rohmer

Loch Ness
Warner West End
PG, 100 mins
Too much Ted Danson, not enough monster

Sara (Leisel Matthews) celebrates her birthday in the beautifully executed adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic, *A Little Princess*

SNAP VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the new releases. The first panel comes from Scotland . . .

CLOCKERS

Louisa Pollock, 18: Quite powerful, very realistic, very well acted in a documentary style. But it was overlong and I didn't care what happened.
Alan Muir, 21: I disagree. It was really punchy, it came right at you. It tried to cut through all the gangster stuff and show you what it is really like to live in the New York projects, where people deal drugs as a way of life and people are killed as a by-product of that. It showed reality.
Dawn Grant, 21: Not usually the sort of film I go to see, but I thought it was quite moving. I felt really sorry for Strike, the main character: Mekhi Phifer played him really strong.
Ross Cowan, 21: I don't think it glamorised violence. The characters acted cold because that's how they would act.

DESPERADO

Alan: I tell you, this film will knock your teeth out and bury them in the garden. It's bullet-ripping, heart-thumping, explosive, it's just amazing. Banderas is cool, mean, moody, magnificent.
Dawn: I can sum it up in one word: garbage.
Ross: *Desperado* takes black humour and shoots you in the face with it. It is unrealistic, but that's why I enjoyed it.
Louisa: It was gratuitously violent. There was blood everywhere, it was completely unbelievable — and I loved it. It was stylish, it was cool, quite like Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* but much funnier. Banderas was brilliant: he smouldered his way through with big sexy looks.

JOHNNY MNEMONIC

Dawn: It took me a long while to get into it, because the acting is so hammy. Keanu Reeves is a good actor as long as he keeps his mouth shut.
Ross: It started off like *Star Wars* and I thought it was going to be really good. But Keanu's opening lines are dreadful, and from then it went steadily downhill.
Louisa: I liked it. It was spectacular; the special effects were in your face. Fair enough, Keanu is wooden when he has to talk, but when he's running around he's great to look at.
Alan: The guy's so wooden he could be sold as a cabinet. And the effects were rubbish: all the old *Blade Runner* stuff.

● *In association with* Moviewatch, *produced by Chapter One for Channel 4*

Something stirring beneath the surface

Dalya Alberge talks to Ted Danson; environmental agitator, paparazzi-hater and sunny star of *Loch Ness*

The massive, unlit cigar that the actor Ted Danson was holding up was a misleading guide to his character. A cigar of that calibre, which everyone associates with caricatures of Hollywood producers, suggested a man who takes himself over-seriously. Far from it.

Danson finds so much of life tragic that he tries to laugh it up — "being goofy", as he puts it. Only the environment, for which he campaigns vigorously, is beyond a laughing matter for him. He exudes a confidence that thrives on charm rather than arrogance. Like many Americans, he can break down barriers within minutes and make you feel that you have known him for years.

His confidence was not surprising this week: as he sat in a London hotel, the world's press was queueing to talk to him about himself and his role in the new film, *Loch Ness*. Danson, who says he is inspired by the comic genius of Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers, made his fame and fortune through *Cheers*, the television comedy that ran for 11 years, and for which he was rumoured to be paid £200,000 an episode.

Now he is appearing in the lead roles in two productions at the same time. Besides playing a scientist in *Loch Ness*, a gentle movie with a strong environmental message, he will be the one bound by Lilliputians in *Gulliver's Travels*, a series due to be screened by Channel 4 in the spring. The series has already been a huge hit in America. The broadcast, last weekend, of the £13 million production, with its state-of-the-art special effects and a line-up that reads like an A-Z of star actors, was watched by an astounding 50 million people. *Variety* enthused that there was "no weak link in the production", and *Newsweek* applauded the stars as "the film's special effects".

Danson says that getting away from Sam Malone, the womanising bartender of *Cheers*, was not easy. His character was so believable that he seemed interchangeable with the off-screen personality. Danson admits to having been surprised by the extent to which he was subsequently typecast, but jokes about audiences watching *Gulliver's Travels* and expecting to see "babes in Brobdingnag" — the land where giants are as tall as steeples. (I, too, found myself watching *Loch Ness* expecting him to serve a drink or two in the scenes set in a bar.)

The gossip columns have played their part in maintaining his playboy image. Danson describes the frustration of being hounded by the paparazzi, of how they can take a picture of someone crinkling up their face to sneeze and then write a headline that suggests a completely different scenario. The latest technique in America, he says, is to entice celebrities into reacting, so creating a story. "I'm as peaceful as you can find, but I fantasise about ways of getting back at them." At the *Loch Ness* premiere in New York, which he attended with his wife and co-star, Mary Steenburgen, the cameramen enticed him to "kiss her" and "give us something worthwhile".

It was *Cheers* which enabled Danson to co-found American Oceans Company, through which he lobbies politicians and corporations on environmental issues. Initially, eight years ago, he funded it himself. He recalls how he wanted to use responsibly the "silly amounts" of money that *Cheers* was paying him. He says it was "enough to cause concern, a little scary" to have so much money. Today, he stages fundraising events, appealing to the same corporations that "we used to beat up on".

Although *Loch Ness* has an environmental message, Danson's imagination was inspired by "the power of myth" within its script, the romance of believing in the monster's existence.

"We must all have something hopeful in life," he said. "We must all have something bigger than ourselves to believe in: the possibility that there is something magical beyond the everyday. I believe in anything and everything. I have no fear of being conned, even if proved wrong, as long as I have enjoyed the ride".

They may read like cute lines from a Hollywood script, but somehow Danson can get away with saying them.

SIMON WALKER

Ted Danson can laugh at most things, but mention the future of the planet and he becomes very serious

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■ CHOICE 2

Maureen Lipman stars as *The Rivals* opens in Manchester

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Exchange

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

Lee Evans brings his 'Essex nerd' one-man show to the West End, but it's an acquired taste

■ THEATRE 2

Ayckbourn on auto-pilot: *Confusions* pulls together five playlets of moderate substance

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

CEZANNE: London's art event of the year opens today. Cezanne's genius is put forward in all its splendour, including 90 of his paintings and some 70 watercolours and drawings. If there can be a highlight in all this, it may be the bringing together of the two final versions of *Les Grandes Baigneuses* from the National Gallery, London, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 ♿ (0171-887 8000). Daily, 10am-5.50pm; entry to Cezanne by ticket only.

SINFONIA 21: Martyn Brabbins and orchestra launch their spring series tonight with world premieres for Jonathan Harvey's *Hidden Voice* and Britten's Sketch No 2, *EBB* (premiere of public performance). Also featured are Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No 2 and Ravel's *Mother Goose*. Piers Lane is the soloist.
St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm

SWEET PANIC: Opening night for Stephen Poliakoff's theatre directing debut: his own play about the strains of life in today's London. Saskia Reeves plays a troubled mother stalking a child psychologist (Harriet Walter). Early booking is recommended.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. ♿

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Mikhail Pletnev — the much-rated rising star who already has the Russian National Orchestra to showcase his talents — conducts the **City of Birmingham Orchestra** tonight: Tchaikovsky's Suite No 1 and Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm; rpt Sat, 7pm ♿

MANCHESTER: Maureen Lipman deranges the epitaphs in Braham Murray's production of **The Rivals**. Tony Britton plays Sir Anthony Absolute.
Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (0181-833 9833). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri, 8pm, Sat, 4pm and 8pm. Until Mar 23

SOUTHAMPTON: William Shakespeare returns to earth to defend his reputation before a fiercely PC academic in **Dead White Males**, playwright David Williamson's satire, hailed as one of the most outstanding contemporary Australian plays, directed by Patrick Sandford.
Nuffield, University Road (01703-671 771). Previews tonight-Mon, 7.30pm; opens Feb 13. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat Mar 2, 2.30pm. Until Mar 2. ♿

STEVENAGE: Snap Theatre Company goes on tour with E M Forster's **Howards End**. For those who missed the Merchant Ivory movie extravaganza, Forster used his childhood home in Hertfordshire as inspiration for a masterly study of class divisions in the Edwardian age.
Gordon Craig, Lytton Way (0438-766 866). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm; mat today, 2pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141) . **British Museum**: Images from the Western Lake: revival of colour print in contemporary China (0171-636 1555) **Matthiesen Gallery**: Leighton and his Sculptural Legacy: British Sculpture 1875-1930 (0171-930 4215) **National Gallery**: Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait Gallery**: Lure of the Limelight: James Abbe Photographs (0171-306 0055) . . . **Theatre Museum**: Staging Purcell Today (0171-836 7891) . . **V & A**: Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500) . . **Whitechapel**: Emil Nolde (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **1953**: First night of previews for Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz, playing the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of Racine's *Andromache*, updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. Patrick Marber (author of *Dealer's Choice*) directs.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Tonight-Feb 13, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Opens Feb 14, 7pm ♿

☐ **THE CHANGING ROOM**: David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game, third in the season of Royal Court Classics.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. ♿

☐ **CHAPTER TWO**: Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play two unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other. New Neil Simon comedy.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Now previewing, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. Opens Feb 19, 7pm

■ **COMPANY**: Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

☐ **EAST LYNNE**: Mrs Henry Wood's famous tale of the downfall of Lady Isabel Vane, played by Rachel Power (Mary Garth in *Middlemarch*). Philip Franks directs new adaptation by Lisa Evans, who made a fine version of *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* last year.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Opens Feb 12, 7pm ♿

☐ **LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS**: Helen McCrory, Joseph Fiennes, Rupert Graves in Simon Callow's disappointing and lo-ng (four and a half hours) version of the film.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Tue, 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2pm. In rep ♿

■ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

◪ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC**: Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish charmer. Judi Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips and Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Tue, 7.15pm; mats Sat and Tue, 2pm. In rep ♿

☐ **THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL**: Mark Arden and Bert Kwouk in revival of Willis Hall's celebrated jungle-war drama; produced by Counterpoint Theatre Co.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **THE MISANTHROPE**: Martin Crimp's contemporary version of Molière, directed by Lindsay Posner, with Ken Stott and Elizabeth McGovern in the leads, and a lovely supporting cast.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm; opens Feb 13 ♿

☐ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE**: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II** (PG): Steve Martin faces the patter of tiny feet. Bland comedy sequel, with Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams. Director, Charles Shyer.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Sq** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

KATIA ISMAILOVA (18): Slight but seductive Russian tale of thwarted passion, crime and punishment; with Ingeborga Dapkunaite. Director, Valeri Todorovski.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

LES MISERABLES (12): Unwieldy variation on Victor Hugo's novel from Claude Lelouch, with Jean-Paul Belmondo.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

WITHNAIL & I (15): Revival of Bruce Robinson's quirky cult comedy, with Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann as would-be actors miserable in the Lake District.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18): Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Minema** (0171-235 4225)

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15): Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama; director, John N. Smith.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **FAIR GAME** (15): Laughable action vehicle for model Cindy Crawford, cast as an attorney in peril. With William Baldwin. Director, Andrew Sipes.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann.
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Empire ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SEVEN** (18): Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-732 3332)

◆ **WAITING TO EXHALE** (15): Crude comedy-drama about black women's men problems. With Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett; director, Forest Whitaker.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 8279) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

Nice lad, but too eager to please

Lee Evans
Lyric

Lee Evans begins his one-man show by strutting down the brightly lit stairs — traditional on such occasions — only to find that the landing at the bottom of the first flight is cardboard. Climbing up and out, he gets trapped, first behind a falling scrim, then behind the theatre curtain. No sooner has he fought his way out than the front-of-stage mikes keep falling and rising just as he is rising and falling, until he ends up on the floor, his head beneath one and his legs around the other.

The message, as he puts it at the close, is that he is "a fool, a flop, a failure", and the implicit promise is that he will mess up his Shaftesbury Avenue debut. In neither respect does he wholly disappoint us. Evans has his funny moments all right, but I found that only sporadically did he unlock my sense of humour and open up the bit that emits laughter. Actually, nothing afterwards amused me as much as an opening sequence that must have lasted all of four minutes.

What is he like? Imagine that the young Norman Wisdom, whom he uncannily resembles, has fallen in with a rough crowd in Dagenham or Basildon. A natural nerd, he ingratiates himself with his new friends by mugging, using the f-word a lot and telling jokes that jink and scramble along in an awful rush, as if he is afraid someone will get bored and hit him. Also, he seldom ventures far from Essex man's world: service stations, supermarkets, burger joints, pubs, dole centres with chairs screwed to the floor, so you can't throw them at the sadistically grinning officials.

Some of his gags are undeniably promising. I liked the one about the non-alcoholic lager-louts going out to break up fights and clean vomit from Chinese takeaways. Ditto the plea for bronze swimming certificates for the plucky sperm who don't quite make it to the egg, and the suggestion that you can avoid dropping your bread butter-side-up either by dropping it before you put on the butter or buttering the floor first.

But again and again a nice, surreal idea tapers away before he has extracted the most from it. Such generosity is, I suppose, better than endlessly squeezing a joke that tapers in the first place. Unfortunately, Evans does that, too. The episode in which he spins plates on poles with the help of a drag queen in a bathing suit is not pretend-incoherent, like some of his stuff, but authentically incomprehensible and bad.

Nevertheless. As he might say, maybe with a goofy gurgle of shrill, self-mocking laughter, I don't want to, you know, sort of, well, effing badmouth him. Apart from anything else, he is a good mimic and an excellent mime. With a bend of the head, a twist of the body, a clatter of oddly angled legs, he can become a butterfly, an OAP on skis, a man trying to look cool while walking on a pebbly beach, a wobbly diner in search of a wobbly table to eat at. Some members of the first-night audience clearly found him hilarious. One day, I suspect that I may too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Wobbly comedian Lee Evans: a sweaty tangle of arms and legs and a repertoire that does not stray far from the interests of Essex man.

No offence taken

Confusions
Richmond

THE best of these five playlets, written by Alan Ayckbourn in 1974, is the one in which a long-suffering waiter (nicely played by Christopher Timothy) serves dinner to two discontentedly married couples and catches their rancorous conversation only when in their vicinity. When he moves out of earshot, the actors mouth their lines silently. On his return he, and we, pick up the next fragments of the worsening rows, during which we realise that the husband at table A has just returned from a holiday with the young wife at table B.

The play is no more than this, but some typical restaurant behaviour is neatly caught in Gareth Tudor Price's production and Vincent Brimble shows that a menu can be funny when read with the vocal equivalent of a pair of tongs being used to remove something the cat has left on the rug.

The plays were written for a cast of three men and two women and links connect some of the plays, though this is unimportant. The weakest of the group is set in a northern hotel, where a sales rep (Timothy again) vainly tries to persuade a girl to come to his room. I suppose the way the man denies his intentions in one sentence and lets them slip out the next is neat, but the piece lacks surprise.

The scene-changes of Colin Winslow's sets are modestly ingenious, particularly the one where the marquee of a washed-out garden fête is carried aloft and leaves a municipal park in its place. Modestly ingenious just about describes the whole show: inoffensive, an artful theatrical device per play (except in the hotel) but nothing special.

In the opening play, for instance, the sales rep's abandoned wife (Joanna Myers, good in a wide range of roles) is so absorbed in keeping her unseen children in order that she treats her neighbours as five-year-olds too. At the fête, to be opened by the civil but unbending councillor (Rula Lenska), the sound system starts working just as the gawky schoolteacher tells the pub-owner he has made her pregnant. Her confession is publicly announced across four acres of fields. And yet her scoutmaster fiancé (Graham Seed) is a cliché character, and so is the vicar, hopping and skipping. This is Ayckbourn on autopilot.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Decline and fall in the Roman Empire

Ben Hur
Warehouse, Croydon

BEN HUR? Well, Ben Her actually. In Rob Ballard's spoof of the big-screen epic about the Roman Empire, Charlton Hestonesque heroics have not only been cut down to size, they have changed sex.

Ballard's Performance Theatre Company has a history of staging flagrantly silly low-budget revisions of the adventures of great figures: anyone from *The Three Musketeers* to Marx (where Groucho arrived to run the Communist Revolution).

This time round Ben Hur, the Judaean who will not buckle under Roman rule, is 5ft 2in and patently female. Charlotte Palmer's Hur is still apparently butch. She floors Messala, an erstwhile buddy but now the province's chauvinistic governor, with a bit of judo. Still, the false beard is fooling no one.

Unfortunately Palmer, while being prettily petite, has small talent as an actress. Her Hur's show of machismo comes down to a vague swagger and a lot of nodding. When, no longer incognito, she falls for Caesar, her portrayal of a sexy lover is no less feeble. Finally, bereaved and bitter, challenging the evil Messala to the mighty chariot race, Palmer narrows her eyes to show us she is determined.

Now, a big part of the joke in a Performance Theatre Company show is its awfulness. The gags rise to "Rome is where the art is" and the like. Centurions' helmets are colanders crested with kitchen sponges. Playing a thousand parts, costume-swapping and adlibbing, the four-strong cast (including the eternally chirpy Ballard) is a shambles.

The chaos is occasionally entertaining. The chariot race, with pantomime horses under strobe lighting, is splendidly silly. However, this script is scrappy and the performers lack comic timing. Were this a Christmas show, it might seem jolly. After January, it looked merely juvenile.

KATE BASSETT

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هكذا من الأصل

■ VISUAL ART

As the Tate opens its Cézanne show, *The Times* presents a daily painting by the master

■ MUSIC 1

The making of a virtuoso: the pianist Nikolai Demidenko reflects on the virtues of being different

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC 2

Jessye Norman turns Janáček's *Makropulos Case* into a star vehicle at the New York Met

■ SATURDAY

A debut at the age of 92: the extraordinary story of the conductor Ilya Musin

Richard Cork begins a short series to mark the major Cézanne retrospective at the Tate Gallery

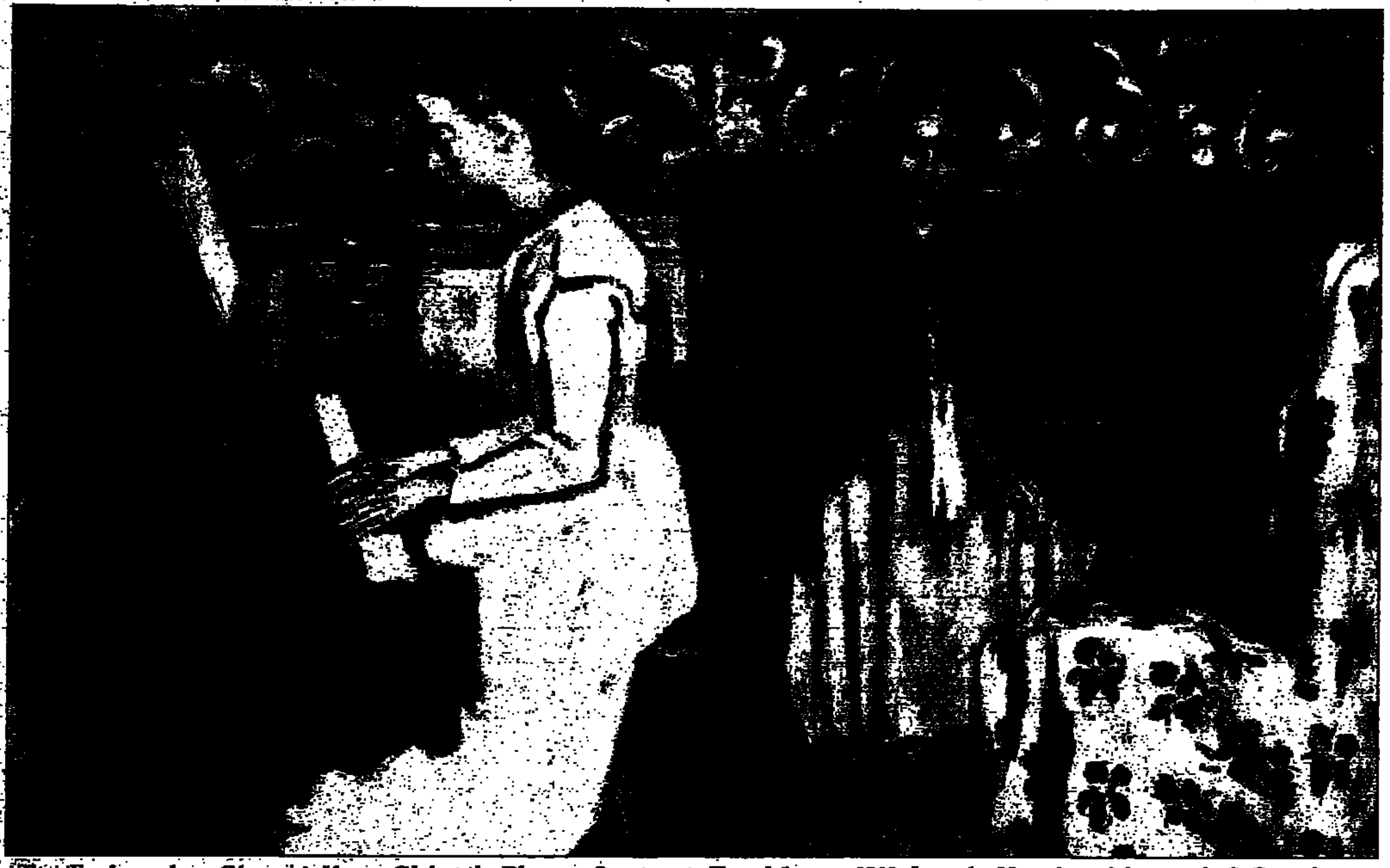
Perspectives on a pioneer

I doubt if 1996 will produce a grander exhibition than the overwhelming Cézanne retrospective which opens today at the Tate, and which I reviewed in *The Times* when it was in Paris last October. For the first time in decades, the totality of his work is assembled in a loan show which, if anything, enlarges an already legendary reputation still further.

Cézanne was disgracefully under-appreciated during his own lifetime. Well into middle age, he was regarded as a failure even by sympathetic writers. By the end of the 19th century, when he had only six years to live, an increasing number of critics and young artists had begun to recognise his greatness. But only after his death did Cézanne come to be regarded as the man who, more than any other painter from the Impressionist era, mapped out the territory for modern art to explore.

To celebrate the Tate exhibition, *The Times* is publishing a daily series devoted to exceptional paintings from the show. They are particular favourites of mine, and reveal different aspects of his achievement. But these five paintings cannot tell the whole story about a complex painter whose work underwent a startling change.

As a young man, Cézanne became notorious for the violence of his art. He painted rape and murder, heaping pigment onto canvases where the turbulent brushmarks reinforced the strength of his volcanic feelings. They are often disturbing images, alarmingly uneven in quality. In the finest, though, Cézanne's passionate sense of attack is immensely powerful. And the same strength of feeling fuels his later work, even after he learnt how to curb his imaginative excess and discover, through observation of nature, how to impose classical order on everything he painted.



Startlingly modern: Cézanne's *Young Girl at the Piano — Overture to Tannhäuser*, c.1869, from the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg

My first choice comes from the momentous period when Cézanne rejected the wild and often morbid fantasies of his youthful work. At the age of 30, he at last discovered how to develop a more measured and contemplative approach.

P. Cézanne

The pianist addresses herself to the keyboard with grave concentration. The whiteness of her dress, painted with extraordinary freedom and contrasted dramatically with the piano's blackness, emphasises the devotion she gives to the music.

Her companion seems equally intent, bowing over some darning as she listens. Cézanne foreshadows his later direction by stripping the figures and their surroundings down to their essential forms. At the same time, he flattens the composition, so that the vigorously brushed stripes in the carpet seem to run up the surface of the canvas.

Everything emphasises the grandeur inherent in a domestic scene, even if the women seem confined within the cluttered claustrophobia of their bourgeois interior.

Cézanne plays tricks with perspective, allowing the piano to shoot back into space but pushing the figure on the settee forwards. This pictorial unrest reaches its climax in the freely handled patterning on the chintz-covered armchair and above all in the surprisingly enlarged design of the wallpaper.

Here, in dancing arabesques which surely inspired Matisse, he seems to pay tribute to the inspiration of Wagner's music. The *Tannhäuser* overture was first played in Paris in 1860 and quickly became admired as the acme of musical boldness. Baudelaire described it as "voluptuous and orgiastic" and a friend of Cézanne predicted that *Young Girl at the Piano* "belongs to the future just as much as Wagner's music". He was right: the modernity of this painting still has the capacity to astound.

● Cézanne *is at the Tate Gallery until April 28, sponsored by Ernst & Young. For advance booking, which is advised, telephone 0171-420 0000*

● **Tomorrow: Richard Cork discusses Cézanne's *Still Life with Apples, 1893-94***

Jinxed show finally lifts off with Jessye

OPERA

The Makropulos Case
Metropolitan Opera, New York

A famous cartoon in *The New Yorker*, published 30 years ago when the house in Lincoln Center opened, showed a ghoulish, misshapen figure skulking out of the old Met, hailing a taxi, and slipping into the back door of the new house to take up residence. If there is an evil phantom of the opera at the Met, he was certainly at work in recent weeks, as the company attempted to give a house premiere to Leos Janáček's *Makropulos Case*.

The first attempt was aborted ten minutes into the performance by the tragic death on stage of the tenor Richard Versalle, who was singing the small part of the law clerk Vitek. Versalle suffered a heart attack and fell from a 20ft ladder on to the stage moments after singing the line, "Too bad you can only live so long."

The second scheduled performance was scratched by the worst blizzard in New York in 50 years. The third try proved to be the proverbial charm. Once past the first scene (which was restaged for Versalle's replacement, Ronald Naldi, without ladder-climbing), there was an almost audible sigh of relief, and the performance got to the end of the piece without mishap.

The haunted mood of the evening was not inappropriate to Janáček's strange, absurdist opera, which has been given the most interesting production at the Met thus far this season. As conceived by producer Elijah Moshinsky, this *Makropulos* is a star vehicle for Jessye Norman as the ageless (almost) opera singer Emilia Marty.

Norman, it seems, has staked out a claim to the diva roles at the Met: three years ago she appeared in a new production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* (also produced by Moshinsky) as the Prima Donna. Much slimmed down, she exuded star quality without lapsing into the campy pose-striking that has marred some of her previous appearances here. She sang with liquid, silvery warmth, soaring almost effortlessly through the high tessitura in her final monologue.

The sets, by debutant Anthony Ward (whose credits include *The Way of the World*, currently at the National Theatre, and *Oliver!* at the Palladium), kept the eye focused on Norman. When the curtain rose, it revealed a billboard-size image of her face (which, in a thrilling *coup de théâtre*, went up in flames in the finale). In the second act, Norman was seated upon a massive sphinx — was Emilia Marty perhaps singing *Aida*? — where she received her suitors one by one.

She was generally well supported by the cast, particularly by Graham Clark as Albert Gregor, who sang with brilliant plangency; Donald McIntyre brought an effective, Wotan-like gravity to the role of Kolenaty. Hakan Hagegard was a bit nondescript as Prus, sounding weak and sketchy in the lower register.

The Met orchestra was conducted by David Robertson, who has led this work at the Welsh National Opera. It was generally a coherent performance, but the strings at moments were uncharacteristically out of tune and a bit untogether; this orchestra, it seems, is never entirely happy except when James Levine is conducting.

JAMIE JAMES

Jessye Norman: star turn as Emilia Marty in Janáček's opera

Playing by his own rules

Barry Millington talks to the highly acclaimed Russian pianist Nikolai Demidenko

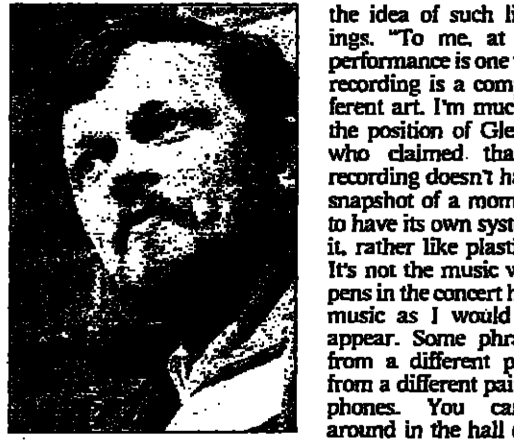
Talking to the Russian pianist Nikolai Demidenko is an exhilarating but disconcerting experience. You soon discover that Demidenko has no time for the usual platitudes. Expressing himself in clearly articulated English, he overturns expectations at every step.

The Russian system of musical education — now in disarray — has a reputation as something of a forcing school. Did he find himself pressurised at the Gnessin Music School in Moscow? "No, an awful lot of things to learn, but I wouldn't say it was terribly pressurised." At the Moscow Conservatoire he was fortunate to study with Dimitri Bashkirov. "I'm still convinced he's the best teacher in the world. He never told us how to play the music at the level of details. He worked in more important directions. That's why no two pupils of his play the same."

Demidenko waxes lyrical about another Bashkirov protégé, the 24-year-old Arkady Volodos. "He is phenomenal. It is comparable with Rubinstein's 1964 performance in Moscow, with Horowitz's visit to Moscow, with the debut of the young Kissin, with Karl Böhm's conducting *Tristan und Isolde*. When that guy has his debut in London, rush there." In fact, we do not have to wait that long, because Sony has recently recorded a Volodos recital disc for release later in the year.

Talking of Kissin, I had heard that Demidenko had helped to bring the 13-year-old prodigy to public attention in 1984, and I invited him to take his share of the credit. But no, refusing to play ball again, he tells me that he was just "one of the people" who were able to bring about Kissin's legendary debut (though it was Demidenko who persuaded the conductor Dimitri Kitaenko to hear him).

"At the first rehearsal for that performance, the orchestra started playing the Chopin E minor Concerto. Little boy, just turned 13, sitting there waiting, and they played the first tutti in an absolutely ordinary manner. Everything changed at the start of the piano part. From the first note, I've never before seen all the wind players watching what the pianist is doing."



Demidenko: none of the usual platitudes

Nowhere has Demidenko sought to avoid the obvious more than in his choice of repertoire. In 1993 he gave a series of six recitals at the Wigmore Hall which explored an astonishing range of piano music, from the instrument's early period (C. P. E. Bach, Voříšek, Mozart), through the riches of the 19th century (Liszt, Kalkbrenner) to the complexities of the 20th (Berg, Gubaidulina). What was the thinking behind such an intrepid traversal of the repertoire? "I considered it a challenge. I just wanted to prove that I could do it."

But he is far from wedded to the idea of such live recordings. "To me, at least, live performance is one world, and recording is a completely different art. I'm much closer to the position of Glenn Gould, who claimed that musical recording doesn't have to be a snapshot of a moment; it has to have its own system behind it, rather like plastic surgery. It's not the music which happens in the concert hall; it's the music as I would like it to appear. Some phrases come from a different perspective, from a different pair of microphones. You can't move around in the hall during the recital. But you can move on the record and sometimes the results are very beautiful, so why not?"

The thought of major one-composer cycles does not excite him, though he has a double CD of Schubert's piano music on the way, from Hyperion, which is also recording Prokofiev piano concertos with him.

At his Barbican recital on Sunday, he will once again avoid the obvious by including Chopin's least known piano sonata, No 1 in C minor: "It's not any worse, it's just different." And he will also be presenting Schumann's *Etudes Symphoniques* in the less familiar first version, before it was heavily edited by the composer's wife, Clara, and Brahms. "There is a huge chunk of music, a whole page, in the first version, which didn't make it into the edited version of 1852. He also showed where he wanted one of the extra variations." In the middle of another variation, the metronome markings were changed too. "It turns out that what Schumann demands is to play almost the whole set in the same tempo. It's an impossible thing to do, but it's an interesting idea."

● Nikolai Demidenko *plays at the Barbican (0171-638 8891) on Sunday at 4pm*

How to talk a great picture

RADIO

THERE is a certain ironic appropriateness about putting contemporary art on the radio. And perhaps a certain sense of relief: this way, at least one does not have to look at it. But there are more positive reasons for welcoming **Private View**, a new Saturday lunchtime series on Radio 3.

Nicholas Ward-Jackson, an art dealer and curator, presents *Private View* and for the most part he is set on responding to the standard media attitude to such art as a model asleep in a tank and, yes, that severed cow of recent notoriety.

The central figure in part one of the series was Douglas Gordon, a Glaswegian and rising star of contemporary art who is ominously described as "out to unsettle his audience". He was certainly out to unsettle Ward-Jackson, who had to pursue Gordon by telephone halfway round Europe.

They finally met in Amsterdam, where Gordon was attending a football match. Gordon has a passion for the game and its curious subculture, and one of his works consisted of projecting the Millwall slogan "We are evil" on to the dome of the Serpentine Gallery in London.

Gordon is multimedia, as they say. He regards the telephone, for example, as an artistic medium. He is fond, apparently, of having messages delivered to diners in restaurants. One of these runs: "You cannot hide your love forever."

What does this mean? Is it art? Ward-Jackson comes from a traditional art background and, if he is sceptical about the contemporary scene, he hides it well beneath an enthusiasm to discover just what is going on.

There are people — and you may count me in — who think that piles of bricks at the Tate could do with a set of wheels: that way they would more plainly state that we are being taken for a ride.

On the other hand it is quite an enjoyable ride. Artists like Gordon make us think and, merely by doing that, they qualify as assets in a bland modern world.

PETER BARNARD

THE TIMES/DILLONS LECTURE

Richard Leakey and the Sixth Extinction

THE FIVE mass extinctions of species on the planet were all natural disasters. Speaking at a *Times*/Dillons lecture on Monday, February 12, chaired by Richard Dawkins, Richard Leakey, the Kenyan politician and renowned palaeoanthropologist and conservationist, will warn us that we are heading for a sixth.

OUR capacity to exploit the world's resources beyond the point of natural renewal is leading us to the verge of a man-made catastrophe, he says. *Homo sapiens* could destroy entire species and trigger the sixth extinction.

The lecture marks the publication of Dr Leakey's new book (with Roger Lewin), *The Sixth Extinction: Biodiversity and Its Survival* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99), and will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £10 (£7.50 concessions), which includes £3 off the price of Dr Leakey's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-580 7680, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to: Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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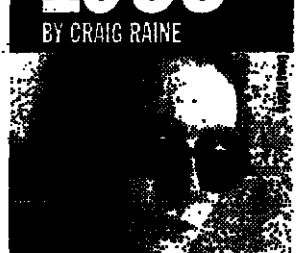

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Nicholas Mosley is a novelist who seeks order in entropy and has the courage to grapple with the unknown, says **Rachel Cusk**

A holy apparition as a sign of the times

CHILDREN OF
DARKNESS AND LIGHT
By Nicholas Mosley
Secker & Warburg, £15.99

Novels are so often about what the novelist *knows* that it comes as rather a surprise to read one that is about precisely the reverse. Where the writer can frequently be found standing at his own fishpond, paying out his line with greater or lesser elegance to reel this knowledge in, Nicholas Mosley wades out to sea with nothing but his bare hands in the hope of catching something new. Whether he succeeds or not is another question; but the profoundly experimental nature of his writing marks him out as one of our most adventurous and provocative voices.

Children of Darkness and Light is a curious but timely novel, as remarkable as it is often opaque, which attempts to address the subject of human entropy while seeking some occluded, necessary order within it. More specifically, it is about the problem of investigation and the difficulties too of inhabiting the tense, shifting border between what is known and what is not.

Harry is a journalist increasingly drawn to this border, the place where in the act of observation reality is manufactured, whose desire to be the factotum rather than the author of truth has stripped him of agency. His fragmented, disordered consciousness is jeopardised still further by drink, and by an itinerant lifestyle which strains his already fragile marriage.

What appears at first to be incoherence, as we are borne along on the muddled stream of Harry's thoughts, is in fact a welter of unprocessed intelligence; the narrative of a mind reluctant to stamp experience with personal interpretation. As Harry's sense of himself dissolves, so his observations proliferate: identity is here an obstruction, an interference without which things might happen as they were meant to and reality thus be ensnared.

As he goes about his investigations, Harry's passivity becomes almost comic: "I had become imbued with the idea that unnecessary questions might divert the course of understanding or even of what would happen." What he is investigating is the story of a group of children in Cumbria who claim to have received a visitation from the Virgin Mary, and have subsequently decamped to the hills above their seaside village and set themselves up on their own.

Some of the children are from Bosnia, where a few years previously Harry covered a similar story; a story in which he interpreted the repetitiveness of the Virgin Mary's visits as an attempt to bore the human race into taking the initiative itself. "I said that the Virgin Mary must know that her instructions weren't working because they had been tried so often and had been ineffective; what she must really want was for us, her children, to recognise this and grow up and start working things out on our own."

Mosley: an adventurous voice

Once in Cumbria, Harry discovers that the apparition is not merely a metaphor, but an entire fiction written, in some sense, for him. His suspicion on arrival that he has been expected, that everybody knows who he is and what he represents, that a play is waiting to be enacted for which he is the necessary audience: all this suggests that by singling himself out as invisible, he has become visible, known; that rather than observing the story, he has caused it.

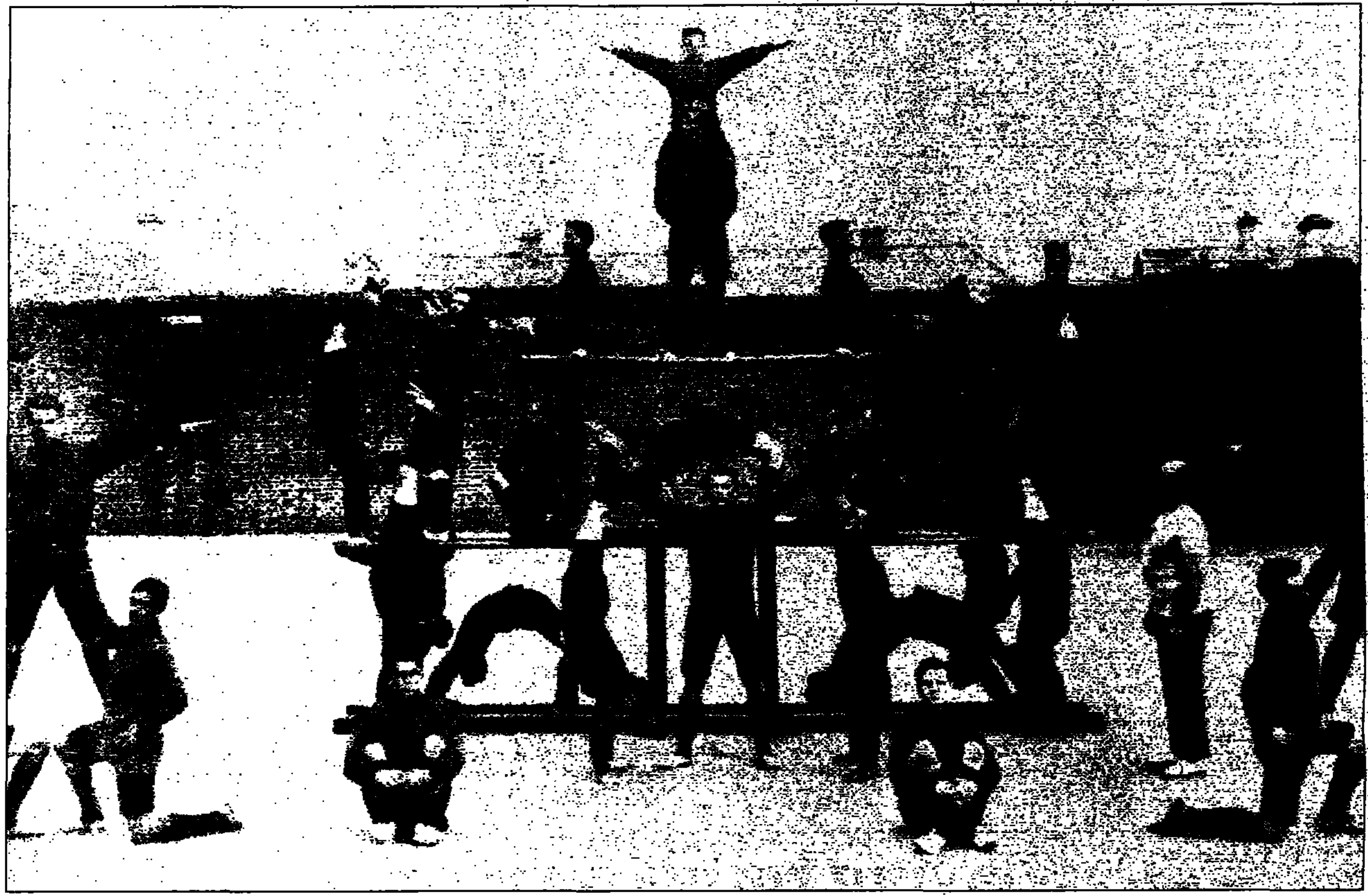
Rumours abound of radiation leaks from a local nuclear plant, of abuses of the children by Social Services; but the more Harry tries to confirm or dispel these rumours, the more facts refuse to perform. "Would it be possible," he wonders, "to devise an experiment at which one could be looking without exactly looking?"

Mosley cleverly withholds daylight until the darkness has become unbearable; for it is only when events have reached a pitch of mystification that one becomes conscious of interference from somewhere else. What looked like an enigma was in fact more of a trick. Harry, it is all at once clear, is not functioning properly, and is labouring beneath things which require disclosure. As he begins to reveal more of what happened to him in Bosnia, a spiritual and philosophical crisis of vast proportions unfolds. "I had wanted not so much to report on the horrors of war — many others were doing that — as to look for what might be at the back of this apparently so arbitrary fighting: at the way in which so many people seemed to feel just what fun war was."

In discovering that people have no real desire to make things better, no appetite for good, Harry finds a positive motivation towards evil, decay, disorder, pollution — "people feeling at home if they land themselves in the shit". He comes to believe the only notion of order is to let things happen, to let them get worse. In the grip of this abdication of responsibility, he rescues a Bosnian child from an orphanage, setting up intolerable conflicts in himself; conflicts which lead him to the belief that if children are tormented enough by adults, they will eventually overthrow them. "And might they not have a chance of doing this especially in times of war . . . Might they not become, that is, like those bacteria that learn to survive under stress — that produce mutations necessary for survival in terms of stress?"

Two extraordinary images of good and evil conclude a novel which, if it resolves few of them, raises many potent and pressing questions about our moral landscape; and which, for its evocation of modern consciousness alone — traumatised and immolated by information — is a fine achievement.

Yet built with stones of law



A gymnastics display at a Borstal, c. 1920: in attempting to foster a sense of personal responsibility, Borstals took public schools as their model (from *The Oxford History of the Prison*)

Vivien Stern

THE OXFORD
HISTORY OF
THE PRISON
Edited by Norval Morris
and David J. Rothman
OUP, £25

THE INVISIBLE
CRYING TREE
By Tom Shannon and
Christopher Morgan
Doubleday, £9.99

One can learn a great deal about a society by visiting its prisons. They show a great deal about values, beliefs and social attitudes. Through a series of learned but never dry essays *The Oxford History of the Prison* tells how this extraordinary institution developed from the early forced labour fortresses of ancient Egypt, like the one in Luxor, where Potiphar confined Joseph (of the coat of many colours), to the violent human warehouses of today's big American cities.

It crosses continents to show the varied traditions, and what the State can do to its citizens under the aegis of a justice system is graphically described. Eight full-colour pages of prisoners' paintings show how creativity can blossom within the razor-wire and grey brick walls.

Prisons in North America and Europe, prisons for women, reformatories for juvenile delinquents, penal colonies in Australia, are all discussed. Punitive regimes, rehabilitative regimes, forced labour are described. What comes across is the dreary sameness of the prison experience. Whether it is Illinois or London, 1850 or 1950, the illustrations are the same: *human beings lying close together in rows*, usually filling every space at every level, the top row so near the ceiling they can barely raise their heads.

Material on the United States predominates, perhaps understandably. The modern prison is said to have been invented there in the 1820s, with competition between the systems in New York and Pennsylvania. In New York the prisoners slept in single cells, but worked and ate together although they were forbidden to communicate by word or glance. In Pennsylvania prisoners were in solitary confinement the whole time. The New York system won the day, because it was cheaper.

Now, nearly two centuries later, the United States is one of the world's greatest consumers of imprisonment, doubling its use between 1970 and 1980 and more than doubling it again between 1981 and 1995. One and a half million Americans are currently in prison. The chances of a young black man in America going to prison are greater than his chances of going on to higher education.

Britain, too, now seems set on a course of ever-increasing imprisonment. Yet, as all the contributors point out, as a method of crime control, prison does not work. So why do we keep on believing in it and demanding it be provided? The answer, according to one of the distinguished editors, Norval Morris, seems to be that imprisonment has become the "plaything of politics". So politicians build more prisons, using money that would otherwise go on schools and hospitals. This is "a sin against the future".

The breadth of history and wide-ranging theory set out in the Oxford volume are richly complemented by another very worthwhile and moving book, *The Invisible Crying Tree*. Through the Prison Reform Trust a farmer, Chrisopher Morgan, became the penfriend of Tom Shannon, a life-sentence prisoner, and the book consists of their year-long exchange of letters.

The farmer writes of his family, combine harvesters, the common agricultural policy, the weather. The prisoner writes of brewing illicit alcohol, wrapping excrement in newspaper and throwing it out of the window, drugs, stabbings, hunger strikes, being in the segregation unit listening to Mozart. It is a blast of reality for those who think prisons run according to rules and regulations. It should be required reading for people who still think prison is a holiday camp.

Both these books throw light on a major social question. To understand the prison of today we need to know its history. Imposing imprisonment as the main punishment for crime did not start until the early 19th century. Before that, compensation or physical punishments such as execution or mutilation were the norm and they were then replaced by transportation to the New World.

Punishments, then, are not static. There is change and development. Do we really intend to carry on beyond the millennium with a system that costs so much, causes so much pain, and does so little good?

Vivien Stern is the Director of the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders

Lust turned all to ashes

Anthony Storr

SECRET LIFE
An Autobiography
By Michael Ryan
Bloomsbury, £8.99 paperback original

Michael Ryan is an American poet who has won many awards for his work and who used to teach at Princeton, until his sexual pursuit of students led to his being sacked. He describes himself as a "sex addict". It could be argued that, since sex is as compulsive a need as food or excretion for most people, the majority of mankind are sex addicts. But Ryan's case is different.

His sex life began when he was five years old, when a neighbour's son began taking photographs of him and proceeded to sexual touching and then fellatio. The relationship persisted for about a year. This is a depressingly familiar story; but Ryan conveys an aspect of it which victims often omit. Although his sexual initiation was distasteful, and the secrecy demanded of him was alarming, Ryan felt that, because he was emotionally important to his seducer, he both valued the man and had power over him. This ministered to his self-esteem.

It is hardly surprising that the little boy responded to a man who was kind and in a distorted sense loving, since Ryan's father was an alcoholic who beat his children with a belt and maltreated them physically in other ways. His advice on sex to his adolescent son consisted of a single sentence. "When you're with a woman, use a rubber."

At the age of 50, Ryan seems to have total recall of his childhood and adolescence. "For hours a day when I was bowling, time would evaporate. I'd think about my approach, my backswing, the angle of my thumb when I released the ball, whether or not I was getting enough finger lift." But Ryan is no Salinger, and British readers will find his detailed accounts of his successes and failures at baseball and at bowling tedious. His sexual encounters, with girls, men, and the family dog are scarcely more enthralling.

Ryan: unusually honest

What is amazing, and largely unexplained, is how so philistine a boy is transformed into a poet who taught at Princeton. It seems probable that an eccentric professor at Notre Dame with a gift for talent-spotting was responsible. However that may be, Ryan was fired in 1981.

What this unusually honest book does, and does very well, is to demonstrate one possible outcome of early sexual molestation. If sex is the only thing in life which makes a boy and a man feel valued, he is likely to become a compulsive Don Juan. The accompanying publicity sheet informs us that "In 1990 he realised that his sex addiction was out of control and joined a programme along with other addicts to cure his insatiable need for sex." It would be interesting to know the outcome of his treatment.

Hope blooms in the desert

Samantha Weinberg

IMAGININGS
OF SAND
By André Brink
Secker & Warburg, £15.99

The elections in South Africa two years ago were a momentous event, a bend in a long straight road. A country went back to the drawing board, started to rewrite its history and redefine its culture in the face of a new future. André Brink, perhaps inevitably, has placed his magnificent book, *Imaginings of Sand*, in the few uncertain weeks surrounding the elections. But like many of his previous works, this book reaches so much further, gathering in fragments of the past, in order to re-examine and reassemble them in the light of what will come to be.

Kristien, a detribalised Afrikaner, is called back from London to her dying grandmother's bedside. Her grandmother, Ouma Kristina, has been the victim of arsonists, who tried to burn down the turreted ostrich palace in the semi-desert where she lives.

Ouma refuses to die before telling Kristien stories about her ancestors, a line of extraordinary women; Kamma, who was picked from her Khiokhoi tribe by a large Afrikaner and became a tree in 1870; her daughter Lottie, who vanished in search of her shadow; *her* daughter Samuel, and so on down the tree to Ouma and finally to Kristien.

André Brink: a many-layered portrait of a changing land

The magical stories Ouma tells, hovering on that uncertain line between believability and fantasy, cover the time from when the Afrikaners first settled in South Africa to the present day. Kristien sits by Ouma's coffin, which the old woman has insisted on climbing into, recording the stories — "before she retreats into her inner desert again, that place of moving dunes that shift position from one day to the next, ceaselessly rewriting their landscape and redefining their space" — and the rest in the reality of a country she escaped over a decade before.

In this "real-time", she meets the inhabitants of the desert, the players in the South African chess game. Here are the Afrikaners, afraid of losing the land they loved and "paid for in blood and shit", the liberals, the wise old black people, the disaffected youth, the smart new politicians, the bigoted old ones, the hawker for whom the election will change nothing: "I'll still have trouble selling vegetables."

Each has his stance, and if I have a criticism of this book, it is that some of these caricatures lack life; they appear to have been created only as a mouthpiece for a sharply-defined set of views.

But this hardly mars a wonderful book. Like the history of South Africa itself, it has many layers, and also many truths. It is about discord and reconciliation: between Kristien and her downtrodden sister Anna, between Kristien and the country she had sworn never to return to, between new and old, black and white, dreams and reality.

It is like a rite of passage; after reading it, one is well-placed to contemplate what might be in the South Africa of tomorrow. As one of its characters, an old ANC warrior, says on being asked why he is here: "Write a new chapter, yes. Close the old books, no. We can't imagine the future by pretending to forget the past."

Samantha Weinberg's novel, Last of the Pirates, is published by Jonathan Cape

Origami journey

Kate Hubbard

DRIVETIME
By James Meek
Polygon, £8.99 ppb original

READING *Drivetime*, James Meek's second novel, is not unlike finding yourself in a hall of mirrors where illusion and reality appear as one and images multiply into infinity. So in this novel sanity and insanity seem to be more or less indistinguishable and the many-layered plot to forever fold in on itself.

When Alan Allen, a student of English literature at Edinburgh University, is thrown off his course, he decides to begin a new life in Glasgow, where the people are "hard and cool and warm". To reach Glasgow he needs a car and to buy a car he needs money, which is why he accepts the offer of a stranger met at a party, called McStrachan, to collect an antique egg from "down south".

So begins a nightmarish journey, and not just geographically, along the motorways of Europe, with the elusive egg and the promised land of Glasgow ever receding.

Alan's driving companions are not well chosen: Deirdre, a psychiatric nurse, loved by Alan; Mike, a baseball-bar-wielding fellow student, literary purist and possible psychopath, loved by Deirdre; Sim, an elegantly dressed systems analyst who suffers from an incurable disease which accelerates the ageing process. Mike rants, Deirdre teases, Sim shrivels and the hapless Alan, dogged by personal misfortune and civil anarchy, keeps driving.

In Northampton he is arrested and accused of perversion and cruelty by an animal rights activist. In Salerno he is left abandoned, penniless and at the mercy of an Italian family, who put him to work making cream horns. In Russia he endures a spell in a mental hospital, where both Mike and McStrachan appear to have been former inmates; after being mistaken for a local Edinburgh councillor he unwittingly unleashes a wave of riots across Europe. The look-a-like councillor is just one of several recurring characters who haunt Alan and provide a strange constancy amid the changing landscape.

THIS is a novel where disturbing coincidences, improbable connections and cases of mistaken identity are rife. But although its humour leans towards the laborious, Meek has a gift for the surreal throwaway image.

It is rather as though David Lynch had been let loose on the set of a drawing room comedy. There will be readers who find this peripatetic fantasy too wacky, but they may still admire the dexterity with which Meek juggles his shifting characters and ties up the ends of his narrative.

هكذا من الأصل

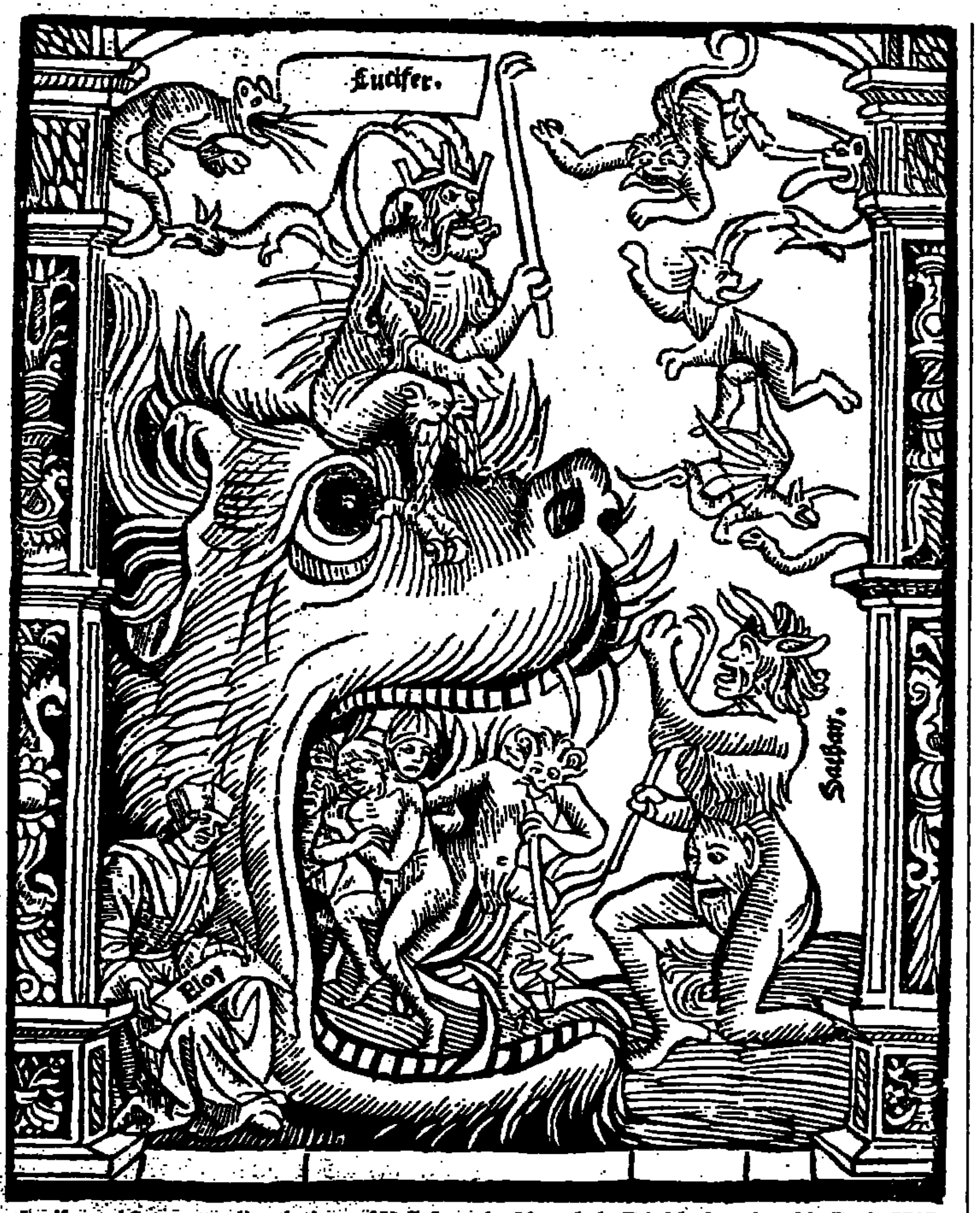
هكذا من الأصل

Angel in a gospel of hate

It is a sad paradox that even though Jesus preached a gospel of love, Christians have often felt justified in cultivating a righteous hatred of those whom they believe to be in error. Crusaders slaughtered Muslims and Jews; the orthodox have killed heretics, and for centuries Catholics and Protestants have vilified and persecuted one another. Frequently Christians accuse the "other" side of being in league with Satan.

In this erudite and illuminating study, Elaine Pagels has traced this tendency back to the New Testament. She argues persuasively that belief in Satan originated in certain Jewish sects, whose members denounced their fellow Jews as the sons of darkness. The Hebrew Bible, however, has no conception of the Devil. Satan is simply a member of the angelic court whose task is to obstruct human activity, sometimes — as in the case of Balaam — in a way that is beneficial to humanity.

But later, during the troubled years of the 2nd and 1st centuries BC, radical Jews told stories about angels who had fallen from grace, basing these tales on obscure and ambiguous scriptural texts. When they asked "How could God's own angel become His enemy?" they were also asking, in effect, how their fellow Jews, who did not share their religious passions, could have turned away from God. Such sects as the Essenes saw themselves as a righteous elite at war with the demonic "powers of darkness" who had infected the rest of the Jewish community.



Lucifer and Satan attending the jaws of Hell: from the *Livre de la Déablerie*, printed in Paris (1568)

Karen Armstrong

THE ORIGIN OF SATAN
A Social History
By Elaine Pagels
Viking, £20

Pagels shows that the first Christians shared this vision of a universe divided between God's people and Satan's. Her penetrating critique reveals a stream of pure hatred running through each one of the four Gospels. The demons of the New Testament, which liberal Christians prefer to ignore, are central to the story of Jesus. The four evangelists all revile their Jewish contemporaries, who refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah, as apostates in Satan's thrall.

In each successive Gospel the Jews become increasingly demonic, while Pontius Pilate, who was renowned for his ruthlessness and cruelty, becomes ever more sympathetic. Mark, who was writing in about AD 70, shows Jesus battling with Satan at the outset of His career and insists that the Jews forced the Romans to execute Him. Some 15 years later, Matthew denounces the Pharisees, the Jewish leaders of his day, as "Sons of Hell" destined for the "fire reserved for the Devil and his angels".

Luke, the only gentile evangelist, goes further. He suggests that the Jews are allied with "the powers of darkness". He has Satan entering into Judas Iscariot and setting in motion the events that would culminate in the Crucifixion. Finally, writing in about AD 100, John shows Satan becoming incarnate in human form: first in Judas, then in the Jewish authorities, and lastly in "the Jews", who form the armies of hell in ceaseless conflict with the forces of light.

Besides teaching the importance of love, therefore, the Gospels laid the foundations of that virulent anti-Semitism which has led to some of the most shameful chapters in Christian history. But the habit of hatred did not stop there. From the Gospels, later Christians learnt to demonise their other enemies. Their faith became paranoid, embattled and defensive: Christian soldiers must march onward, as to war.

Pagels shows that during the Roman persecutions, Christians believed that they were engaged in a cosmic battle with Satan: a martyr's death frustrated a diabolic conspiracy against humankind. The pagan gods became devils in their minds, Greek and Roman culture was now demonic and teachers such as Origen undermined the religious sanction for the State. Finally, "heretics" who did not share the opinions of the Establishment were denounced as Satan's agents.

Pagels does not deny that many Christians have transcended this sorry legacy. Many, however, have not; they see no incompatibility between the gospel of love and a righteous denigration of people from other ethnic, religious or ideological groups. Only by acknowledging this tragic flaw, which Pagels's important book has shown to be deeply embedded in their tradition, can Christians hope to correct it and avoid the hatred that their faith has so often tragically inspired in the past.

Nigel Hawkes on a vision of man-made catastrophe

Once again, the end is nigh

THE SIXTH EXTINCTION
Biodiversity and its Survival
By Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99

ANCESTRAL PASSION
The Leakey Family and the Quest for Humankind's Beginnings
By Virginia Morell
Simon & Schuster, $30

In the history of ideas, a long struggle has been fought between stasis and catastrophe. The Old Testament gave catastrophe a running start, with its emphasis on flood, plague, and pestilence, but in the 18th century along came James Hutton, a Scottish physician who declared that the Earth had always been much as it seemed. Every feature on its rumpled surface could be explained by the infinitely slow processes of geology, operating over unimaginable stretches of time.

In spite of the efforts of arch-catastrophist Georges Cuvier, who claimed that life was wiped out regularly by floods, Hutton's uniformitarianism soon became the dominant idea. Darwin believed that fossil evidence of past catastrophes was merely an index of that record's incompleteness. An attempt earlier this century to overthrow uniformitarianism by Immanuel Velikovsky, author of *Worlds of Collision*, was easily seen off and the scientific community cheered. But the celebrations were premature.

In the past 20 years it has become clear that catastrophes really have happened and that evolution, far from being a steady rise from single-celled bacteria to Masters of Balliol, has been a rollercoaster. In the Cambrian explosion half a billion years ago, a huge number of new species emerged in just a few million years, a burst of creativity unmatched before or since. And the fossil record, *pace* Darwin, shows a string of catastrophes of which the most recent was the elimination of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin now want us to believe that the five recorded catastrophes are being succeeded by a sixth, for which the human race is responsible. The thesis is propounded in a book that is by turns intimate and academic, passages of first-person narration interspersed with an excellent account of recent work in evolution and ecology; though the two elements do not always gel.

The claim that man's dominion has made life harder for countless other species is not exactly new, but here the evidence is superbly marshalled and undeniably persuasive. The extinction of a range of huge creatures from the American continent 11,000 years ago has in the past been blamed on climate change, but recent evidence implicates the Clovis people, who started killing elephants, mastodons and giant sloths and didn't know when to stop. In New Zealand, the Polynesian settlers saw off a whole menagerie of flightless birds. Similar destruction continues today, though some creatures have powerful friends to protect them — not least Richard Leakey himself, who raised the plight of the African elephant to worldwide prominence.

The Leakeys with Melvin Payne (right) of the National Geographic Society in 1972

But everywhere smaller animals, insects and birds are disappearing, or so the ecologists claim. What, if anything, can be done about it is a different question.

As Leakey and Lewin make clear, ecosystems are fragile, unpredictable, and made up of a range of species which owe their presence there largely to chance. Given the pressure on space, even the best-intentioned of human societies are going to continue to wreak havoc. As the existing balance of species is not God-given but the consequence of accident, does change matter so much?

To most people, the wilderness has no moral authority. They regard the claim made by the ecologist Les Kaufman that "a piece of the American soul died along with the passenger pigeon, plains buffalo and American chestnut" — quoted approvingly here — as a self-indulgence worthy of Pseuds' Corner. Mankind may have to learn to run the planet like a garden, but most people prefer gardens to wilderness, anyway. The problem is that managing ecosystems is so complex a task that the attempt is doomed to failure. Small wonder that the book leaves one with a sense of impotence.

Virginia Morell's account of the Leakey family is a labour of love, for she makes it clear that this is the recent history of palaeontology told from the Leakey viewpoint. The approach has its drawbacks, because the field is riven by dispute and personal animosity, and the American palaeontologists Donald Johanson and Tim White, for years at loggerheads with the Leakeys, declined to be interviewed.

But she is at pains to be fair and the book bulges with detail. Louis Leakey, the founder of the clan, ultimately triumphed after his first finds had been ridiculed and his academic standing destroyed. To him and his wife Mary, Richard's mother, is owed a large part of the credit for establishing that Africa was the cradle of mankind. But he was impulsive, made enemies easily, and never quite won the support of more conservative colleagues. When he died, the family dallied over placing a headstone on his grave and when they got round to it, found that one of Louis' many lady friends had already done it without even asking. "The nerve!" says Richard.

The story is a compelling one, and very well told. It sheds light on a field where a powerful personality may be as valuable as a good mind: a science that is still in some ways pre-scientific.

The Times/*Dillons lecture by Richard Leakey will take place in London on February 12. Details and ticket coupon page 33*

Wodsod's coarser pleasures

It is 1791, which in France some are calling the Third Year of Liberty, and the young Englishman shod like a carthorse is a poet. He makes ponderous jokes and drinks his wine only by sniffing at it. He speaks atrocious French and his name is unpronounceable: Wodsod, Wodswort, Wozwoz, something like that.

Annette Vallon sets out to be his tutor in her language, but before very long he has her in his bed. A royalist, she rejects the brick from the broken Bastille which this naive republican brings her as a love-gift. She calls him "Mr Williams", however, and is sufficiently well-pleased by his attentions not to be able to recall if he removes his boots during their performance.

A contemporary portrait presumed to be of Annette Vallon

Robert Nye

THE FIRST MRS WORDSWORTH
By Michael Baldwin
Little, Brown, £16.99

Using the few facts known of Wordsworth's early affair with Annette Vallon, Michael Baldwin manages at first to make quite a plausible romance of them. His Annette, spirited but vulnerable, observes for instance that her lover seems to think her body to be "like one of his country paths, to be strayed over at will and revisited whenever it suited him". This catches Wordsworth with his pants down in a way that might well be true. It is clever of Baldwin, too, to show the poet turning aside from love-making to compose the only lines in his *Descriptive Sketches* which could possibly be read as directly erotic — lines which the later Wordsworth was most careful to suppress.

The novel goes wrong when Baldwin has William and Annette "married before God" by a non-juring priest in a cowshed. There is no evidence whatsoever that Wordsworth loved Annette, let alone married her. All that we know for certain is that she bore his child a month or so after he had fled away to England, and that his abandonment of her and their daughter did not do his conscience any good. The matter goes unremarked in *The Prelude*, but forms the theme of *Vaudracour and Julia*, about two lovers who have an illegitimate child.

A novel is a licence to suppose, but *The First Mrs Wordsworth* strains credulity by supposing too much and shattering the psychological verisimilitude it has itself created. Only a reader unfamiliar with Wordsworth's life and work could readily swallow its central thesis: that the couple went through a form of marriage.

Baldwin seems to have taken literally a single letter in which Annette calls William "mon mari" — but as Emile Legouis remarked long ago, when first turning up the whole sad story, this must have been wishful thinking on the part of a young woman who read too many novels.

Frankly, had Wordsworth been a bigamist then the tension might have improved his later verse. But it is possible to forgive Baldwin his flight of fancy for the sake of the wholly believable Wozwoz who stalks through his earlier chapters — he of the bone-white legs and the clumpetty boots, "a man of preternatural animal sensibilities".

Afflicted by the unnatural city

Christopher Hawtree

TERRIBLE HONESTY
By Ann Douglas
Picador, £20

A NARROW partition separates the comprehensive from the rag-bag. Ann Douglas's account of Manhattan in the 1920s is certainly pell-mell, and could hardly be otherwise. The period fulfilled Wallace Stevens's remark about "this electric town, which I adore". By the 1920s, he was in Hartford and missed the metropolis. Reason for this is clear even from the sporadically lit path that is the 600 pages of Professor Douglas's prose.

Refreshingly, Professor Douglas ranges across cultures, so many of which were brought together by radio. Vulgar relish is integral to true civilisation, that sense of what Chandler called "terrible honesty". Professor Douglas often appears to be a human CD-Rom, immediately able to summon up a dozen authors' variants on that phrase, just as she readily asserts that New York City had more automobiles than all of Europe and gives an alarming catalogue of alcoholic authors.

She admits that this book took two decades — owing to her own alcoholism, which has made her alert for such self-destructive creation as Scott Fitzgerald's.

Early on, apparently, Alcoholics Anonymous took as its Bible *The Varieties of Religious Experience* by William James. Although dead in 1910, he remains central to Professor Douglas's view of emergent urban America, as is Sigmund Freud, who spent only one week in New York (enough time for him to be offered $100,000 to write a movie script). All this leads her to think that the period contained the most "penetrating analysis, sophisticated spoofing, and exciting storytelling the American mind has ever stocked at one time".

It was also an era, bracketed by the Great War and the Crash, which was "a kind of paradigmatic set-up for manic depressive illness, an illness with which I believe America is still, and at times, it seems, helplessly, afflicted" (her next book will be about psychopaths of the 1950s).

HOWEVER that might be, her labour was worthwhile for the bibliography alone. As is the fashion, this is not a list but a closely-printed 90-page essay, chockful of books to seek out (galling how many American books, past and present, are unavailable here). One is grateful to learn of the early novels by Billy Walker's collaborator, Charles Brackett, and the memoirs by the singer Ethel Waters; glad too, that somebody else enjoys the witty novels by Katharine Brush; but puzzled that she overlooks a masterpiece which encapsulates the era — that semi-rhyming, free-verse tale of drunkenness and debauchery, Joseph Moncure March's 1928 *The Wild Party* (now available in an elegant Picador volume, illustrated by Art Spiegelman).

"The doctor will see you now"
After you've read
MICHAEL PALMER'S
SILENT TREATMENT
You'll never want to hear those words again.
A medical thriller of heartstopping tension
ARROW

هكذا من الرحل

Tour firms woo the grey set

By Harvey Elliott

TOUR OPERATORS are targeting older holidaymakers as research underlines their high spending power and determination to travel. Almost all the big holiday companies now have specialist units determined to cash in on one of the most lucrative sections of the struggling holiday market.

According to Sovereign Holidays, 36 per cent of the over-55s have a gross income of more than £19,500 a year. *Many have paid off their* mortgages and 38 per cent have an income from private pensions.

With so much money to spend — by next year the total amount of discretionary income in the hands of 45 to 70-year-olds is expected to be more than £10 billion — it is not surprising that tour operators, who face a fall of up to 30 per cent in bookings from the family market, are switching their attention to the "greys".

Holidays are high on the list of priorities for the over-55s, with more 55 to 65-year-olds taking an annual holiday than any other age group, and spending an average of £574 per person. Older people also take more holidays in a year than the average. By 2000, the over-55s will make up 26 per cent of the population.

Research shows that although 53 per cent choose a *holiday by the sea, they also* want to be able to pursue their hobbies, take cultural tours and ensure their creature comforts are well looked after.

"Nearly two thirds of our clients come from the upper age groups and are looking for slightly more sophisticated and tailored holidays," Steph Pritchard, marketing manager for Sovereign Holidays, says. "With years of experience of foreign holidays under their belts, the over-55s are proving to be ever more discerning customers."

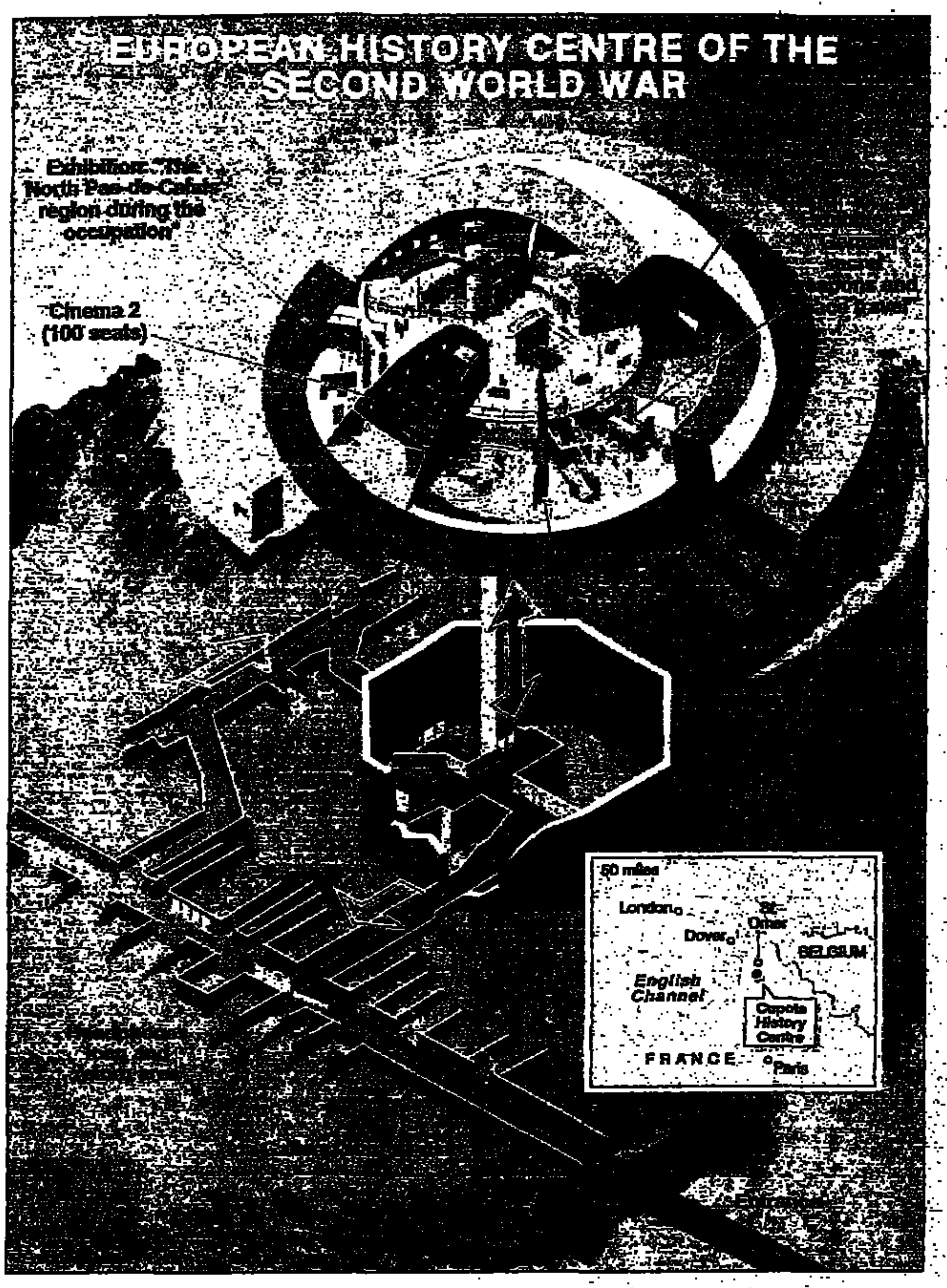
Inspirations has launched a brochure aimed for the first time at the older, retired holidaymaker. Prices in the *Warm Winters* brochure start *at £121 for seven nights self*-catering in Benidorm including return flights.

The importance of older people has long been recognised by the highly profitable and fast-expanding Saga Holidays. It has specialised in taking them all over the world during the quieter months when families with school-aged children cannot generally get away.

Now Saga is launching a range of holidays to cater for single people aged over 50. The brochure, *Specially for Singles*, includes activities such as ten-pin bowling, ice *skating, canal cruising, walks*, talks, dry slope skiing, surfing lessons, swimming, music evenings or visits to country pubs.

Prices range from £204 for a week's half-board at a horticultural college campus near Chelmsford to £538 for two *weeks in Rhodes where Greek* dancing and scuba-diving are on offer.

Italiatour, which specialises in Italy, is also offering a discount of £30 per person on holidays taken midweek or during school term time.


EUROPEAN HISTORY CENTRE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR
Exhibition: "The North Pas-de-Calais region during the occupation"
Cinema 2 (100 seats)
50 miles
London
Dover
St Omer
BELGIUM
English Channel
Cupola History Centre
FRANCE
Paris

V2 on show at Nazi bunker

By Tony Dawe

THE V2 rocket, Hitler's secret weapon which was intended to bring Britain to its knees in the Second World War, will soon be used to woo British tourists to a new exhibition centre in the north of France.

One of the rockets, now disarmed, will take pride of *place in the gallery being built* in the same bunker which the Nazis planned as the base from which to launch a final assault on Britain. Detailed plans for the centre and the construction work completed so far were unveiled by the French yesterday.

They include a display of secret German weapons, an exhibition showing how the rockets have been developed for use in the Western world's space programme, and two cinemas which will show films compiled from hundreds of hours of footage from British, French, American and German archives.

Work is well advanced on converting the bunker, which was built in a quarry at Helfaut-Wizernes near St Omer and covered with a 15ft-thick concrete dome. Builders will also soon start work on a striking, modern reception *hall in front of the bunker and* the new attraction, the European History Centre of the Second World War, which will open early next year.

The £800,000 project has been devised by historians who recognised the huge bunker's importance, and local government and tourism officials, who realised its po*tential for attracting visitors to* an area now by-passed by Eurostar trains and the A26 autoroute.

"We don't want to see the trains and the cars go past, and know that this is an excellent opportunity to create an historic and symbolic tourist centre," Guy Froment, the centre's managing director, says. "The bunker symbolises the dark past of Europe but the modern architecture of the reception will be a symbol for the Europe of the future."

The Germans started building the bunker, designed to launch 50 V2 rockets a day, in August 1943. The plans included workshops, stores, barrack rooms, a hospital and dozens of miles of tunnels.

The structure was spotted by the British, however, and between March and July 1944 the Royal Air Force unloaded 3,000 tons of bombs in the area. *The Nazis were forced to* abandon their plans and launch the rockets from mobile sites, although the dome was only slightly damaged.

Initial market research has suggested that British tourists will be eager to visit the site and see what they were spared. M Froment said seven out of every ten British travellers interviewed thought that they would visit the centre on a future trip. An extra exhibition focusing on the special relationship between England and northern France is also planned.

The centre is expecting a total of 240,000 visitors a year. They will begin their tour in the airy reception building designed to convey an image of brightness and progress, in contrast to the initial gloom of the bunker, which they will enter through a long tunnel.

Headsets will enable them to follow the infra-red, audio-guided tour at their own pace as they pass through scenes recapturing the period of the German occupation of northern France before they arrive at the foot of the Polygon, the unfinished site of the great rocket preparation room.

A lift will take them 100 feet up into the main exhibition area and cinemas beneath the great dome.

Visitors rain down on Spain

SPAIN had another record year last year, *Edward Owen writes*. There were a total of 63.5 million visitors — 3 per cent more than in 1994 — of *which 45 million were tourists*, about eight million of them from Britain.

The country is trying to attract a "better class" of tourist by increasing prices and improving offers, particularly for those exploring the *hinterland. Now that its 17* autonomous regions have the responsibility of promoting tourism in their areas, rather than the central government, a deluge of helpful information is available — as Fitur, the Spanish travel trade fair, *showed last week in Madrid.*

Benidorm, already rid of its lager-lout image, is taking a gamble by restricting bookings from British tour operators. Bookings by Thomsons are about 15 per cent down and prices are up to pay for *improvements in accommodation* and the town's amenities. The resort is also welcoming more Russians — some 10,000 paid up to £1,000 each last year for a two-week package from Moscow.

For those driving in Spain, two of the main wine regions, Rioja and the Duero valley, offer special routes to take in the bodegas, scenery and historic sites. Pedro Benito Urbina, the director of Rioja's oenological station, says last year's harvest was perfect. "If we had to create the ideal conditions in a laboratory, they would not have been so good," he said.

Each region is offering information on rural hotels and traditional houses. And around Seville, in Andalucia, visitors can imagine themselves as sherry barons in sprawling country *cortijos*, with luxurious suites and fine horses to ride.

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Concorde flyers snuff out BA smoking ban

By Harvey Elliott

WELL-HEELED Concorde passengers have demanded that British Airways set aside at least eight seats for passengers who want to smoke.

From May 1 British Airways is to ban smoking on flights to all United States destinations and to the Caribbean — journeys which can last up to ten hours. But after pressure from supersonic passengers, two rows of seats on *Concorde flights* to New York and Barbados, taking only a little over three hours, will remain available to cigarette smokers. The airline has, however, drawn the line at cigars, which will remain banned in flight.

"Our passengers decided that they wanted to retain the right to choose for themselves," a spokesman said. "We always listen to our customers and Concorde pasengers clearly did not want smoking banned altogether. Perhaps they are older, or more tolerant, than the average passenger and have grown up in a culture which is not so against smoking."

A return fare between Heathrow and New York on Concorde, which has 100 seats, is £5,606. During detailed market research into smoking on board, BA was stunned by the vociferous reaction of Concorde passengers, who made it plain that they were not prepared to be dictated to — even though most do not smoke themselves.

All BA flights within Britain went non-smoking in 1988, followed by more than 400 European flights and services to Australia, New Zealand and Canada in 1994.

● Air France's recent decision to re-time its eastbound transatlantic Concorde service spells good news for British travellers. At present, travellers flying from New York to London or Manchester are forced to overnight in Paris because there is no same-day connection (although there are good connections westbound from the UK). But from March 31, Air France's Concorde departs New York at the earlier time of 8am which, allowing for a short transfer at Paris Charles de Gaulle, will enable travellers to the UK to be there by evening. Air France also undercuts the direct-flight fare. The BA London to New York Concorde flight costs £5,606 return, and discounts are rare. Air France supersonic flights are available for less than £3,000 return.

Hotels to raise cash for Unicef

By David Churchill

INTER-CONTINENTAL Hotels this week announced plans to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in the spring by appealing to business travellers who stay in its 170 hotels worldwide to make a special donation to Unicef, the United Nations Children's charity, which also celebrates its golden jubilee this year.

Inter-Continental is asking its guests, 70 per cent of whom stay on business, to round up their bill by about $10 as a donation to Unicef's work.

Such a donation would, says Inter-Continental, provide enough vitamin A tablets for 300 Third-World children to be protected from blindness. A $20 donation would provide clean water and sanitation for a child for a year.

The hotel chain hopes to raise at least $1 million (£650,000) from the idea, but would like to generate up to $5 million during its anniversary year.

Guests will be asked when leaving their hotel if they want to make a donation which will be included on their bill; if they prefer, a separate credit card donation can be made. Staff have been trained not to pressurise guests, especially those who frequently stay in an Inter-Continental hotel.

Robert Collier, joint managing director of Inter-Continental, said yesterday that the campaign was "aimed at being helpful yet unobtrusive, and is being fully backed by our staff who are holding their own fundraising events during the year".

Robert Smith, Unicef's executive director, pointed out that the charity's work over the last half century "had helped to reduce global child mortality from 25 million a year to 12.5 million, although that figure is still too high".

While Inter-Continental is the first hotel chain to organise such a scheme on behalf of Unicef, British Airways has for the past two years operated a system called Change For Good, which encourages it's passengers to donate their foreign coins and notes to Unicef.

The scheme, which initially operated only on long-haul flights, has just been extended to cover European short-haul flights out of Manchester and Birmingham. BA says that more then £2 million has so far been raised for Unicef.

The airline's surveys indicated that the 200 million or so international air travellers each year are left with about $40 million in non-convertible foreign coins and low value notes. This, it says, is usually put into a "safe place", and promptly forgotten.

● *Unicef: 0345 312312.*

Travellers seek exotic ideas for millennium

By Tony Dawe and Rachael Jolley

THE travel industry is preparing to face up to one of its toughest challenges: the premature enthusiasm of seasoned travellers and avid partygoers to celebrate the millennium in style.

Special brochures will start appearing later this year, hotels are already trying to sift thousands of applications for 1999. New Year's Eve parties and organised companies have laid spectacular plans. However, travel experts are attacking the industry for a lack of originality.

"The trouble is that all the best hotels are always full at new year and need do little more than arrange a bigger party than usual," says Ann Scott, a leading travel consultant. "As far as exotic holidays are concerned, there is nothing new about a balloon safari over Africa or swimming with dolphins in Florida."

The most original ideas so far include seeing in the millennium twice: either by flying Concorde to New York, or by cruising in the South Pacific. A nine-day voyage will call at Fiji for New Year's Eve before crossing the international dateline to catch the party in the Cook Islands.

The dawn of the new millennium will rise on Chatham Island, an outpost of New Zealand which is the first place to see the sunrise each day. This stony and inhospitable spot loses out as a party location. However, the idyllic Vavau in Tonga, just west of the dateline, will host a $3,775-a-head (£2,450) party with entertainers such as Jean-Michel Jarre.

Closer to home, the Savoy Hotel in London already has enough potential bookings to fill up twice over. A spokeswoman said a shortlist ballot would be held next year.

The owners of the Simpion-Venice Orient Express and the luxury British Pullman train are considering offers to hire them at more than £20,000 each. The Millennium Society, based in America, has booked the *QE2* for a 20-day jaunt, culminating in a grand firework display at the foot of the Egyptian pyramids.

After balloting 1,000 regular travellers to discover their ideas, Thomas Cook will publish a special millennium brochure later this year featuring trips to the Pyramids, Sydney and the Taj Mahal. "It seems people want to make the big day really stand out," a company spokesman said.

Miss Scott believes romantic or inspirational places will be the best venues to celebrate, depending on people's tastes. "What could be a more inspiring place to welcome a new millennium than the Taj Mahal or the Abdydoes temple on the Nile?" she asks.

"For an opera buff, what could be better than sitting in the Teatro la Fenice in Venice, providing the restoration has been completed?"

Party planners who want to get away from the crowds have asked to hire the National Trust's more remote cottages: the most asked-for location is Cornwall.

Meanwhile, people who would rather avoid the millennium altogether, can trek to Nepal with Exodus Travel where, because of the different calendar, the year will be 2050; or they can join a trip to Ethiopia where it will be 1993.

Ready trek: fans of Captain Kirk and Mr Spock are flocking to the Science Museum

Star turn at museum

By David Churchill

LONDON'S Science Museum is boldly going where no museum has gone before, with its most successful exhibition ever — the display of *Star Trek* costumes and memorabilia which is estimated to have attracted more than 250,000 "trekkers" since opening last October.

The popularity of the exhibition is such that the museum has just decided to extend its run for an extra two weeks, until March 10.

And it may also propel the Science Museum ahead of its neighbouring museums in the capital's league table.

The Science Museum visitor numbers in recent years have been static at about 1.3 million, although this year it believes the popularity of *Star Trek* will push it above 1.5 million visitors in total; more than the Victoria & Albert and neck and neck with the Natural History Museum.

More importantly, according to Mark Sullivan, the project director, the exhibition has attracted people who do not visit museums.

"We are clearly drawing the museum's attention to people who might not have considered us in the past," he said.

The popularity of the exhibition has been helped this year by the thirtieth anniversary celebration among fans of the original series featuring Captain Kirk which first hit television screens in America in 1966.

It is estimated that *Star Trek* — which has spawned seven films and three other television series — is now being screened somewhere on earth 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

● Star Trek — The Exhibition, *until March 10 at The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7. Admission (exhibition only): £4.95 for adults, £2.95 children and concessions; combined ticket £8 and £4.50.*

Soccer strips to be sold in-flight

By Steve Keenan

BRITAIN's third largest charter airline, Air 2000, is to start selling Newcastle United football shirts on board flights from the North East from April. And P&O European Ferries is also experimenting with the team strips of four Premiership clubs on its cross-Channel ferries.

The moves come as transport companies seek to improve their proportion of tax-free sales, ahead of the 1999 scrapping of duty-free allowances on goods such as alcohol and cigarettes.

Air 2000 has also invested £500,000 in an on-board computer system, designed to speed up credit-card transactions, improve tracking of sales and inventory, and read bar-codes on goods.

In trials, the system has increased sales by 5 per cent. The airline is hoping to improve on last year's on-board sales of £20 million, which averaged just £5 per head.

Aircrew will distribute shopping magazines and tell passengers of special deals. As well as team shirts relevant to the departure airport, the new range of goods includes exclusive perfumes.

With duty-free sales due to be scrapped, ferries, airports and airlines are placing more emphasis on tax-free goods such as toys, gifts and perfumes.

"We have to get away from the concept that the only items people want to buy in the air are alcohol and cigarettes," said Air 2000's managing director Bill Kirkwood.

"The buying of duty-free goods also tends to be focused at the airport. We are telling customers that buying on board can be more comfortable and cost-effective.

"The average on-board spend in the past couple of years has been flat. We have to persuade people that shopping in the air can be part of a holiday experience."

P&O now carries 11,000 tax-free product lines on its 23 ships. Duty and tax-free sales accounted for 30 per cent of its £600 million revenue last year, with tax-free a growing proportion of the total.

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TURKEY specialist, Sun-Tours, is offering three, four and seven-night holidays in Istanbul at prices between £129 and £189 per person until the end of March, with flights from Gatwick on Fridays and Mondays starting tomorrow. Details: 0171-434 3636.

☐ BARGAIN holidays in the Algarve, with flights from Gatwick and Glasgow on February 19, are available from Co-op Travelcare. The price from Gatwick for a fortnight is £219 per person; from Glasgow for a week £149. Details: 0161-827 1030.

☐ ARTSCAPE is offering a trip to The Hague on March 21-23 to visit a special Vermeer exhibition. Travel to Holland is by ferry and minicoach with 3-star hotel accommodation. Price per person: £189. Details: 01702 435990.

☐ FLY to Goa at bargain prices with Inspirations; flights are from Glasgow on February 17, Newcastle on February 18 and 25, Manchester on February 24 and Gatwick on February 29. Guesthouse prices start from £355 and hotels from £484 for a fortnight. Details: 01293 822244.

☐ CLUB MED is offering "one in two fly free" deals to many of its ski resorts, including Chamonix and Les Arcs, for holidays starting on March 3, 10 and 17. Details: 0171-581 1161.

☐ SINGLE travellers can make great savings on ESCOA cruises in the Far East this year as single supplements for trips aboard the *Superstar Gemini* have been reduced to £20 instead of the usual 55 per cent levy on a normal fare. Details: 0117-927 2273.

☐ LOW-COST hotels (from £13 a night) and car hire (from £11 a day) are featured in the new British Airways Holidays brochure. Details: 0345 222111.

HOTELS

STAPLEFORD Park in Leicestershire is guaranteeing a "lady-free" day for bachelors anxious to avoid proposals on February 29. The "great escape day" costs £200 a person and includes a five-course dinner and sporting activities such as clay pigeon shooting. Details: 01572 787522.

☐ ANY marriage proposals made by diners in the Oak Room restaurant at Le Meridien hotel in Piccadilly on February 29 will qualify for a free bottle of champagne ... if the proposal is accepted. Diners can also win a weekend trip to Paris for two staying at another Meridien hotel and travelling by Eurostar. Details: 0171-734 8000.

☐ GUESTS staying at the Chelsea Hotel in Knightsbridge on February 29 who are also celebrating their birthday will get an additional 15 per cent discount on the rate of £158 a night, which includes champagne and chocolates. Details: 0171-838 9650.

☐ HILTON National has published its new Past Times Heritage weekends brochure featuring short breaks linked to historic events including the centenary of designer William Morris' death and battles of the English civil war. Prices start at £147 per person. Details: 01923 246464.

☐ THE 200-acre Highbullen Country Estate and Hotel in North Devon is offering unlimited free golf for guests on its new 18-hole course which opens at Easter. Prices range from £47.50 to £70 per person per night. Details: 01769 540561.

FERRIES

NEW high-speed links to Ireland and France herald early discounts from the Stena line. The *Stena HSS* is due to operate from March 1 on the Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire route. The crossing takes 90 minutes and two-day returns are being offered from £99 for a car and five passengers. Details: 01407 606765

☐ LE SHUTTLE is giving away bottles of Lanson champagne to customers booking a £126 standard return, or a full-fare short-break, which start at £70. The Channel Tunnel car service also quotes Monday-Thursday day trips for £39, weekend prices at £49. The promotions run until the end of March. Details: 0990 353535.

☐ THE SeaLynx catamaran has begun service on the Dover to Calais route and starts from Newhaven to Dieppe on March 20. Day trips for a car and five people start at £30 (£40 on Saturday) and a three-day fare at £49 (£59) for travel by April 30. Details: 0990 707070.

☐ P&O EUROPEAN Ferries is quoting B&B short-breaks to Belgium for two nights from £79 per person including ferry from Dover or Portsmouth, valid until the end of February. Day returns on Dover-Calais cost £19 per car (£29 Saturdays), £4 per foot passenger. Details: 01992 456045.

☐ NORTHERN Ireland day trips are available through Driveline Europe, using P&O's Cairnryan to Larne crossing from £10 a car and £4 a passenger. Details: 01707 660011.

FLIGHTS

☐ UNIJET is celebrating its new association with KLM with special deals to New York (£189 return, book within the next week), Toronto (£283) and Bangkok (£450) for departures before March 31; all flights via Amsterdam. Details: 01444 440011.

☐ RETURN flights to Johannesburg from £435 are offered by Flightbookers. Tickets for departures until the end of March from Heathrow or Gatwick. Details: 0171-757 2444.

☐ BRITISH Airways £99 World Offer excursions to Bordeaux and Toulouse are now available for travel on any day of the week. Details: 0181-897 4000.

☐ FROM April 1, Jersey European will operate jet flights between Londonderry, Birmingham and Stansted — the first time this route has been served. Details: 0345 676676.

☐ *AMERICAN Airlines is* offering first and business-class passengers a 40,000-mile bonus on transatlantic flights taken before March 31. Details: 0345 567567.

☐ LUFTHANSA's telephone check-in facility for passengers flying to Germany and beyond is up and running at Heathrow, Birmingham and Manchester. Passengers with only *hand baggage dial* 0345 737310 and collect boarding passes at the airport.

British find France too expensive

By Harvey Elliott

FEWER than one in five British holidaymakers who went to France last year plan to return in 1996 because of the surprisingly high cost of living, according to a survey published this week.

France is perceived to offer the worst *value for money* and to be far more expensive than expected by 45 per cent of those who visited in 1995, says American Express.

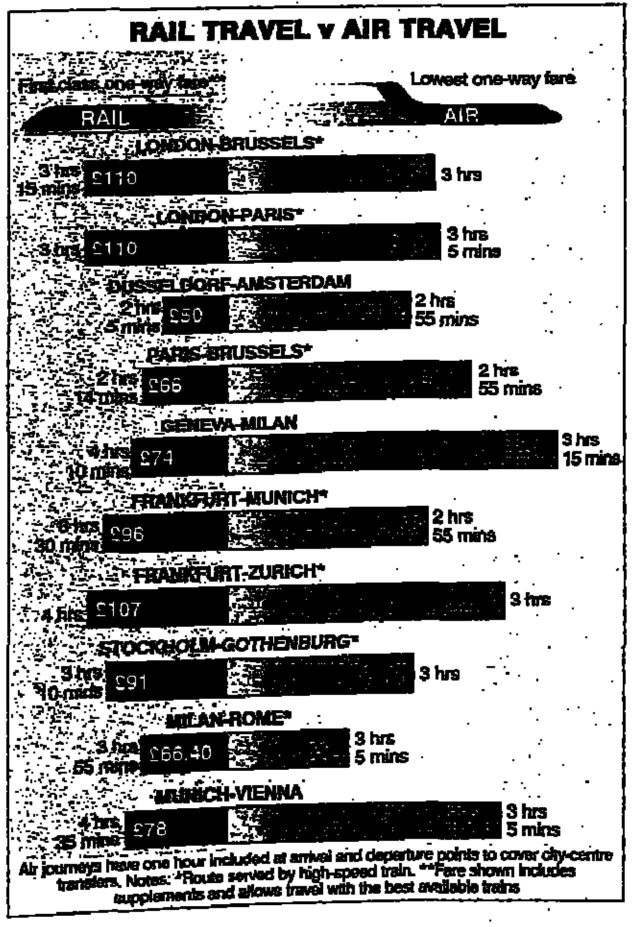
On the other hand those who spent their holidays in Australia, New Zealand and Cyprus found them to be less expensive than they had anticipated.

British holidaymakers spent more than £13 billion *abroad last year*, of which 44 per cent went on meals out; sightseeing accounts for the second largest amount of holiday spending, at 22 per cent, and drinking is third, at 14 per cent. About 20 per cent of men of all age groups said that drinking was their greatest expense on holiday while for women the figure was only 9 per cent.

Europe's trains challenge airlines

By Raymond Atherton

RAIL TRAVEL v AIR TRAVEL



Air journeys have one hour included at arrival and departure points to cover city-centre transfers. Notes: *Route served by high-speed train. **Fare shown includes supplements and allows travel with the best available trains

MANY British executives continue to take the plane rather than the train when travelling to or within Europe in the misguided belief that flying saves time. But this is not always the case thanks to newer trains and better scheduling. There is now often little difference between the two on many medium-length journeys, yet a first-class rail ticket can cost up to 75 per cent less than a one-way flexible air fare. As a further bonus, rail passengers avoid taxi fares to and from airports and tickets are free of airport taxes.

An executive planning a short-stay midweek trip from London to either Paris or Brussels would pay as little as £59 or £69 return by Eurostar in standard or £155 in first-class compared to the cheapest *equivalent air fares of* more than £200. Even when based on flexible first-class tariffs, Eurostar still undercuts business-class fares to Paris or Brussels by more than 15 per cent.

But the greatest savings are within mainland Europe. A first-class passenger taking the train between Paris and Brussels pays £66, against the air fare of £189. Frankfurt-Zürich costs £107 by rail compared to £217 by air. Zürich-Milan by air is £273 whereas the first-class rail fare is £70.

Europe's current leaders in high-speed rail (trains running at up to 186mph) are France and Germany. Germany's ICE trains run on purpose-built 186mph lines such as the Hamburg-Frankfurt-Munich one. They also make forays over conventional track on routes such as Frankfurt-Berlin and Frankfurt-Basel-Zürich. France's famous TGV trains run over long stretches of 186mph track south to Lyons, Geneva, Marseilles and Nice, west to Britanny and southwest to Bordeaux and Biarritz. And *the Paris bypass line (the rail* equivalent of London's M25 motorway) means UK passengers heading beyond Paris no longer need to change in the French capital.

"Passengers arriving on Eurostar at the new Lille Europe station can connect with TGV trains south to Lyons in two hours or Marseilles in four hours and 30 minutes," says Peter Mills, the French Railways spokes*man.* "Later this year a further link will enable the TGVs to run Lille-Nantes in three hours and Lille-Bordeaux in four hours," he says.

From June there will be a dramatic reduction in the time taken to cross the Alps by train. Pendolino "tilting trains" (made by Fiat of Italy) will cut an hour off the journey to Milan from Basel, Berne, Geneva and Zürich. While from October there will be a further reduction in the journey time between Paris, Lyons and Milan/Turin.

But rail travel does have some drawbacks: the booking systems are old-fashioned, so changing your ticket can be a hassle. And even buying a *ticket in the UK can be a chore* because few agents are rail-minded, although matters are improving. French Railways has opened "Rail Shops" in London, Manchester and Glasgow while London-based European Rail and Hogg Robinson are two agents now meeting demand with dedicated rail ticket offices.

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Drink-related death outwith insurance

Dhak v Insurance Company of North America (UK) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment February 6]

An insured person who took a calculated risk and embarked deliberately on a course of conduct which led to some bodily injury could not claim under a personal accident insurance policy if the bodily injury was the natural and direct consequence of the course of conduct.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Kashmir Singh Dhak, suing as administrator of the estate of his deceased wife, Mrs Inderjit Singh, from the decision of Judge Malcolm Lee, QC, sitting as the mercantile judge at Birmingham on February 28, 1994 whereby he ordered that the plaintiff's claim against the defendants, the Insurance Company of North America (UK) Ltd should be dismissed.

The deceased was a ward sister at Birmingham General Hospital. She suffered severe back injury as a result of lifting a heavy patient and had a short period of treatment as an in-patient in hospital and then went back to work. She continued to suffer pain and began drinking alcohol in the hope of relieving the pain.

On October 28, 1986 while recovering at home from influenza she died and a post mortem showed that the blood/alcohol concentration in her body was very high. The verdict recorded at the inquest was death by misadventure.

The deceased had a personal accident policy which specified that benefits would be payable for "Bodily injury resulting in death or injury within 12 months of the accident occurring during the period of insurance and caused directly or indirectly by the accident".

The plaintiff obtained letters of administration and made a claim under the policy. Liability was repudiated by the defendants and the plaintiff sued them.

Mr Michael Spencer, QC and Mr Richard Hone for the plaintiff; Mr Crawford Lindsay, QC and Mr David Pittaway for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that to bring the claim within the terms of the insurance policy the plaintiff had to establish (i) that the deceased sustained a bodily injury (ii) that the bodily injury resulted in death and (iii) that the bodily injury was caused by accidental means.

An important issue at the trial was whether the deceased died from the toxic effects of the ingestion of alcohol or whether she died through asphyxiation. It might be that it was for that reason that the question whether the inhalation of foreign matter which led to asphyxiation did or did not involve some bodily injury was not fully explored when the three pathologists gave their evidence.

Accordingly, in considering the questions whether the deceased suffered a bodily injury and whether that injury resulted in death one had to bear that point in mind.

The judge had held that "the immediate mechanism of death was asphyxia caused by the regurgitation of the contents of the stomach of the deceased in her lungs" and that there was no bodily injury resulting in death. The defendants supported the judge's findings.

His Lordship was quite satisfied that the deceased's death resulted from bodily injury within the meaning of the policy for, inter alia, the following reasons:

1 The defendants were prepared to admit that in certain circumstances the swallowing of a peanut causing asphyxiation and death might involve bodily injury. But in such an event the mechanism of death would be similar to that in the present case.

The blockage of the windpipe would lead to apnoea and after a short time to congestion of the lungs. That would be followed or accompanied by petechial haemorrhages and the absence of oxygen would then cause damage to the brain by anoxaemia.

2 Bodily injury would often involve some external trauma. But, in the absence of express words, his Lordship saw no reason why bodily injury should be restricted to some injury to the exterior of the body.

The introduction of some foreign matter into the body or into a particular part of the body which caused harmful physiological changes in the structure of the body could, in his Lordship's view, amount to bodily injury.

It would be remembered that *"bodily injury" was defined in the* policy as "bodily injury caused by accidental means". It was argued for the plaintiff that the deceased's death was plainly an accident.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that it had not been established that the bodily injury to the deceased was caused by accidental means within the meaning of the policy. In reaching that conclusion his Lordship had been persuaded that the words "caused by accidental means" were a clear indication that it was the cause of the injury to which the court pay its attention.

In the course of argument the court was referred to a number of cases on accidental injuries decided not only in England but also in Australia, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand. Some of the decisions were impossible to reconcile. In a number of the Canadian decisions the distinction between accidental means and accidental results had been rejected.

In his Lordship's judgment, however, whatever the position might be in other jurisdictions, the terms of the policy required a court in England to concentrate on the cause of the injury and to inquire whether the injury was caused by accidental means.

It was common ground between counsel that a proximate cause meant the effective or dominant cause. The point at issue was the application of the law to the facts.

The submission of the plaintiff was that the excessive intake of alcohol was a part of the background but not the effective cause of the injury.

In his Lordship's judgment, however, the correct approach to the question of cause in the present case was to adopt the analysis approved by Lord Justice Mustill in *De Souza v Home and Overseas Co Ltd* (unreported, July 20, 1990, CA). In addition one should consider whetehr the insured tok a calculated risk.

His Lordship would put the matter as follows:

Where an insured embarked deliberately on a course of conduct which led to some bodily injury one had to consider the following questions:

(a) Did the insured intend to inflict some bodily injury to himself?

(b) Did the insured take a calculated risk that if he continued with that course of conduct he might sustain some bodily injury?

(c) Was some bodily injury the natural and direct consequence of the course of conduct?

(d) Did some fortuitous cause intervene?

In the present case there was no suggestion whatever that the deceased intended any bodily injury to herself. One had therefore to examine the other three questions. At the same time one must take account of all the circumstances including the state of knowledge or presumed state of knowledge of the insured.

In considering what could be foreseen one must apply the standard of foresight of the reasonable person with the attributes of the insured.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was justified in finding that the deceased must have been well aware of the consequences and dangers of drinking alcohol to excess and that she must have been taken to have foreseen what might happen in the event of somemone drinking to excess. She was a ward sister with many years of experience as a nurse.

His Lordship felt quite unable to say that the deceased's injury and death were the direct result of some fortuitous cause. It was the direct consequence of her drinking to excess.

Indeed, his Lordship felt bound to say that for someone with her *knowledge and experience* she must be regarded as having taken a calculated risk of sustaining some bodily injury.

Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Graham Pearce & Co, Solihull; Barlow Lyde Gilbert.

Companies can pay salary in return for shares

Parlett v Guppys (Bridport) Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Hobhouse

[Judgment February 1]

The provisions in section 151 of the Companies Act 1985 prohibiting a company from giving financial assistance for the acquisition of its own shares did not apply to an agreement whereby four private companies together assumed liability for making future payments of salary, bonus and pension, subject to their being sufficient profits, to one of its shareholders in return for that shareholder transferring shares in one of those companies.

Taking into account only that part of the salary that was immediately payable at the time the agreement was executed, there was no material reduction in the net assets of the relevant company.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Leslie N. *Parlett, from part of the decision in* favour of the second and third defendants, David Parlett and Robert Parlett, by Judge Raymond Jack, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in Bristol Mercantile Court in June 1994, that an agreement in 1988 for the transfer of 26,000 shares in Guppys Estates Ltd, the fourth defendant, was unenforceable.

Section 151 of the 1985 Act provides: "(1) ... where a person is acquiring ... shares in a company, it is not lawful for the company ... to give financial assistance directly or indirectly for the purpose of that acquisition before or at the same time as the acquisition takes place."

Section 152(1) defines "financial assistance" as including "(iv) any other financial assistance given by a company the net assets of which are thereby reduced to a material extent..." Section 152(2) provides for "net assets" to mean "the aggregate of the company's assets, less the aggregate of its liabilities..."

The plaintiff in person; Mr *Michael Todd as amicus curiae;* Mr Michael Templeman for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said the statutory provisions prohibiting a company from giving financial assistance for the acquisition of its own shares were in sections 151 to 158 *of the Companies Act* 1985. Their complexity in contrast to the relative simplicity of their predecessor, section 54 of the Companies Act 1948, was explained by Parliament's intention to relax the rigidity of the former regime in certain respects, more especially in its application to private companies.

One such relaxation was that assistance, not otherwise objectionable, which did not reduce the net assets of the company to a material extent was no longer prohibited. Whether there was or was not such a reduction in net *assets was the principal* question for decision on the appeal.

The proceedings arose out of a dispute between the plaintiff and his two sons. The plaintiff would only continue working for the family companies if he was paid a salary and a share of the profits.

Thus in July 1988 it was agreed that four family companies *should* between them provide the plaintiff with a salary of £100,000, bonus and pension in return for the plaintiff transferring his shares in the fourth defendant into the joint names of himself and his sons. The agreement to make the payments was made subject to there being sufficient profits.

In 1991 the writ claiming the balance of salary and bonus alleged to be owed to the plaintiff was issued. The judge held that the defendants had made out their defence under section 151.

The parties agreed that if, and only if, Guppys Estates' participation in the agreement caused a material reduction in its net assets, it had given unlawful financial assistance for the acquisition by the sons of its own shares, contrary to section 151(1).

The *defendants* submitted that when the financial assistance consisted of the assumption of a liability to make future payments, the company's net assets were at that time reduced by taking into account all those payments, even if the liability was limited to payment out of future distributable profits. Thus, it was argued, the reduction in Guppys Estates' net assets had to be measured by taking into account the capitalised value at that date of all future payments to the plaintiff under the agreement.

Mr Todd submitted that it was incorrect to take into account anything more than that part of the salary and bonus which was immediately payable on the conclusion of the agreement and that in any event there had to be taken into account the counterbalancing asset acquired by Guppys Estates in the shape of the plaintiff's services.

In principle *Mr Todd's* submissions were correct. However, the judge thought that the value of the plaintiff's services to the fourth defendant, objectively judged, was *not* worth as much as much as £100,000 a year plus one quarter of the profits so on that footing there was a reduction in the net assets of the group of companies. That in itself was not enough to bring the 1988 agreement within section 151(1). The decisive question was whether there was a reduction in the net assets of Guppys Estates to a material extent. Sufficient material existed for the court to decide that there was not.

Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Hobhouse agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Hancock & Watson, Truro.

Whether new tenancy created by council

Greenwich London Borough Council v Regan

Before Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment January 31]

It was a question of fact in every case whether a new tenancy or a licence was created when a landlord, who had obtained a suspended possession order for non-payment of rent against a secure tenant, allowed the tenant to remain in occupation after a breach of the order or reached agreement with the tenant as to the repayment of rent arrears.

In a case where the landlord had waived breaches of the tenancy agreement, the original tenancy agreement continued in being and *sections 82(1) and 85 of Part IV of* the Housing Act 1985 did not operate to bring into being a new tenancy or licence.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Robert Regan against the dismissal by Judge Harris in Woolwich County Court on September 7, 1995 of his application for a stay of possession and giving leave to his landlord, the London Borough of Greenwich to execute a warrant for possession of 48 Wixom House, Kidbrooke, Blackheath for non-payment of rent.

Section 82 of the 1985 Act provides: "(1) A secure tenancy which is ... a weekly or other periodic tenancy ... cannot be brought to an end by the landlord except by obtaining an order of the court for the possession of the dwelling-house."

Section 85 provides: "(2) On the making of an order for possession of such a dwelling-house ... or at any time before the execution of the order, the court may (a) stay or suspend the execution of the order, or (b) postpone the date of possession for such period or periods as the court thinks fit.

"(3) On such an adjournment, stay, suspension or postponement the court — (a) shall impose conditions with respect to the *payment by the tenant of arrears of* rent (if any) and rent or payments in respect of occupation after the termination of the tenancy (mesne profits), unless it considers that to do say would cause exceptional hardship the tenant or would otherwise be unreasonable."

Mr William Geldart for the tenant; Mr Ian Peacock for the council.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said the council had first served the tenant with a notice seeking possession for rent arrears in September 1988. Proceedings had begun in June 1989 and on July 24, 1989 an order for possession had been made, suspended upon weekly payments of £1.75 towards the *arrears.*

There had been further breaches of the payment terms and the council had warned the tenant that he was in danger of eviction for non-payment. On February 4, 1994 the council had agreed to accept £10 a week towards the arrears, in addition to rent of £45.82. The council had said: "If you *miss* any payments in future, the possession order against you will be enforced and you will be evicted."

It had been submitted that the secure tenancy had ended on September 4, 1989 when the tenant first committed a breach of the *tenancy conditions and that the* local authority must be taken to have entered into a new tenancy agreement. Alternatively, it was argued that a fresh tenancy was created in February 1994.

His Lordship reviewed the relevant sections of the Housing Act 1985. The judge had held that the combined effect of those provision was that the termination of a secure tenancy was never final until the warrant was executed and that there was no reason in principle why a new tenancy should have arisen.

The object of suspension of possession was to give the tenant an opportunity to rectify his default. The tenancy would continue *in the meantime* and would never have been brought finally to an end and on discharge of an order there would be no date on which the tenant was to give up possession.

It was a question of fact in every case whether the parties' conduct was consistent with their relationship being modified or whether it was a new relationship altogether.

The facts of the present case could be distinguished from those of *Burrows v Brent London Borough Council (The Times* July 21, 1995; (1995) 27 HLR 748), where the court had held that a new lease or licence was created.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said section 85(2) envisaged two different situations (a) the date under which the tenancy was to have been given up would have passed and (b) the date for termination had been postponed.

The power to order mesne profits was exercisable even if the tenancy had terminated by operation of section 82. If the order for possession was discharged the termination of tenancy which was dependant on that order must fall with it.

If the position was that the court could suspend possession, was the position any different when the parties agreed among themselves to *suspend* the possession order and not trouble the court? If it were, it would be necessary to go back to court every time a due payment was late.

His Lordship was reluctant to conclude that the local authority would be at risk of creating a new tenancy if it accepted payment without the court's sanction. The answer was in what Lord Justice Auld had said in *Burrows v Brent*: "It all depends what the parties intended in the circumstances."

On the facts of the case it was clear there was no intention to create a new tenancy.

Solicitors: Hudgell & Partners, Woolwich; Mr David Atkinson, Greenwich.

Fax available when registry shut

Practice Note (Admiralty: Caveat by fax)

A praecipe for caveat against release could be filed by fax when the Admiralty and Commercial Registry Office was closed.

The Admiralty Registrar so stated in a practice note issued on January 15 which said:

1 The purpose of the new Order 75, rule 14A, inserted by rule 8 of Rules of the Supreme Court (Amendment No 3) (SI 1995 No 3316 (L20)), was to avoid prejudice to claimants should a release of a vessel and/or cargo be sought after the court offices were closed to the public.

2 The designated fax number for the filing of a praecipe for caveat against release by fax was 0171-936 6056.

3 It was essential that the designated fax number was used and no other, as that fax machine was manned 24 hours a day by court security staff (tel 0171-936 6000).

4 Use of a fax number other than that designated would be ineffective for the purposes of the rule.

5 The Admiralty and Commercial Registry would not accept a praecipe for caveat on the designated fax number or any other during the times the office was open to the public.

6 The praecipe for caveat should be transmitted with a note in the following form, for ease of identification by security staff:

"Caveat against release

"Please find praecipe for caveat against release of the (name ship/identify cargo) for filing in the Admiralty and Commercial Registry."

Justices cannot order CSA to repay money

Department of Social Services v Taylor
Secretary of State for Social Security v McKay
Same v Brown
Same v Shotton

Before Mr Justice Latham

[Judgment January 23]

Justices had no power to order the Child Support Agency to make restitutory repayments to the person who was the subject of the order even where it was conceded that the attachment of earnings order was defective.

Mr Justice Latham so held in the Queen's Bench Division in upholding the appeal of the Secretary of State for Social Security against *the order of Watford Justices* on January 25, 1995 that the Child Support Agency should repay money deducted from Graham McKay under a defective deduction from earnings order and in upholding the secretary of state's appeal against decisions by justices to quash deduction from earnings orders made against Peter Francis Brown and George Shotton and to refuse to grant a liability order against Graham Taylor.

Mr Mark Shaw for the Secretary of State; Mr Nicholas Lockett for McKay; the other respondents did not appear and were not *represented.*

MR JUSTICE LATHAM said that it had been conceded before the justices that the deduction from earnings order against Mr McKay was defective.

The justices held, having been referred to *Woolwich Equitable Building Society v Inland Revenue Commissioners* ([1993] AC 70), that they had power, having quashed the CSA order, to require repayment by the secretary of state for the sums paid under that order on the basis that it had been made pursuant to an ultra vires demand by a public authority.

The justices had held that Mr McKay was entitled at common law to repayment of those sums, pursuant to the court's powers under section 58 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980.

That raised a fundamental principle as to the powers of the magistrates' courts. The jurisdiction of magistrates' courts was governed by statute.

They had no power to consider questions or make orders where there was no statutory provision empowering them to do so. It would be surprising if the power to quash a deduction from earnings order was intended to include a power to order repayment.

It had to be remembered that the CSA was merely collecting money on behalf of the parent who had care of the child.

The consequence of an order for repayment, simpliciter, would be to require the CSA, which had not been unjustly enriched because the money had gone to the parent with care of the child, to pay a sum of money to the liable parent which would either be a windfall to him or her, or could be claimed back immediately by the CSA as the sum due and owing under the maintenance assessment.

former result had nothing to do with principles of restitution but had the characteristics of a penalty; the latter produced a nonsense.

For those reasons, his Lordship rejected the argument that a magistrates' court had any power to order repayment of sums paid under a defective deduction from earnings order.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Department of Social Security; Pictons, Watford.

Dishonesty onus on owner of trade mark

Barclays Bank plc v RBS Advanta

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment January 26]

Although the drafting of subsection (6) of section 10 of Trade Marks Act 1994 was a mess, its primary objective was to legalise "comparative advertising" and the onus was on the owner of a mark, who claimed that such advertising, referring to his mark, was unlawful, to show that such use would not be considered honest by members of a reasonable audience.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the *Chancery Division, in refusing an* application by the plaintiff, Barclays Bank plc, owner of the registered trade mark "Barclaycard", for an interlocutory injunction restraining the defendant, RBS Advanta, a joint adventure incorporated in Scotland, from referring to that mark in literature intended to promote its own RBS Advanta Visa credit card.

In *Bismag v Amblins (Chemists) Ltd* ((1940) 57 RPC 209 (CA)) comparative advertising in which one trader made express reference to a competitor's mark was ipso facto held an infringement.

To rectify that, section 10 of the 1994 Act provided: "(6) Nothing in ... this section shall be construed as preventing the use of a registered trade mark by any person for the purpose of identifying the goods or services as those of the proprietor or a licensee.

"But any such use otherwise than in accordance with honest practices in industrial or commercial matters shall be treated as infringing the registered trade mark if the use without due cause takes unfair advantage of, or is detrimental to, the distinctive character or repute of the trade mark."

Mr David Young, QC, for Barclays; Mr Michael Silverleaf for RBS.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said *that RBS's amended literature,* intended to advertise a new credit card of its own, referred to the services offered by a number of major competitors, in particular mentioning "Barclaycard Visa", with the result, according to Barclays, that RBS's card would get an unfair advantage in the market.

RBS put its case in two ways. Even though under *American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd* ([1975] AC 396) it was only necessary for Barclays to show an arguable case, it had none; but even if it had, under his Lordship's decision in *Series 5 Software Ltd v Clarke (The Times* January 19) Barclays' case was too weak for relief to be granted.

RBS's mailshot included a leaflet, listing 15 ways its card was said to be a better card all round and a brochure: one page of which included a comparative table, listing six competitors' cards, including Barclaycard, Standard Visa and RBS's card, with headings including annual fee, annualised percentage rate on purchases and on cash advances, and monthly rate per cent. A second table on that page, of similar layout, also referred to Barclaycard.

Counsel were united in criticising the drafting of section 10(6) of the 1994 Act. His Lordship agreed, it was a mess. The first half was home-grown but the second could be traced back to the Paris Convention for the protection of industrial property 1883, as revised at Brussels on December 14, 1900, dealing with unfair competition, and thence to article 6(1) of the EEC Trade Mark Directive 89/104/EEC (OJ 1989 L40/5).

That had been adopted, with minor changes, as section 11(2) of the 1994 Act: "A registered trade mark is not infringed by — (a) the use of a person of his own name and address, (b) the use of indications concerning the kind, quality, quantity, intended purpose, value, geographical origin, the time of production of goods or of rendering of services, or other characteristics of goods or services or (c) the use of the trade mark where it is necessary to indicate the intended purpose of a product or service ... provided the use is in accordance with honest practices in industrial or commercial matters."

It was difficult to formulate any construction of the proviso to section 10(6) which afforded every word a distinct function and which was also consistent with sections 10(3) and 11(2). It seemed to his Lordship that its primary objective would be to allow comparative advertising so long as use of a competitor's mark was considered honest by members of a reasonable audience, honesty being gauged against what was reasonably *to be expected, by the relevant* public, of advertisements for that kind of goods or services.

Mr Young had accepted that Barclays could not have complained if RBS had simply said its card was better; but in descending to details it had not compared like with like and implied its card was better on all 15 points.

His Lordship said that read fairly, all the material conveyed was RBS's belief that its card, taken as a whole, offered customers a better deal. In the result, and taking into account both his Lordship's views on the balance of *convenience and on Barclays'* slender prospects of winning the action, interlocutory relief would be refused.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Stephenson Harwood.

Institute of Legal Executives Autumn 1995 Examinations Part II

The following have passed the Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) Part II membership Examinations, Autumn 1995.

A'Court, L A; Abbasi-Barnes, M S; Abrahams, G H; Abu-Doosaah, K E; Ahluwalia, V; Ahmed, K; Akka, A A; Al Mufachi, B A; Al Naimi BA, A C M; Alderson, J; Alexander, M H; Alexander, S D; Allen, A J; Allen, B; Allen, C A; Alobaidi, J; Anderson, C J; Anderson, J R; Anderton, K J; Andrews, J S; Angus, M L; Apeagyei, S; Aristidou, O; Armour, T; Arneja, P P; Ashworth, A K; Astles, C; Atkinson, J; Atkinson, L; Austin, A

Baffa, G G; Bailey, K A; Bailey, R; Bainbridge, H V; Baker, H M; Baker, J E; Baker, L; Baker, T J; Bancks, K L; Barron, V; Bantten, D; Barber, V; Bardon, D H; Barnes, H A; Barr, J; Barrett, P M; Barrett, S S; Barry, D P; Bartlett, M J; Bartlett, S R; Basra Ablin, M K; Bass, S E; Bassi, K K; Bastin, S L; Batchelor, S J; Batten, J A; Baxter, G M L; Baxendale, J S; Baylis, S J; Beale, E; Beard, J D; Beaven, J; Beck, S A; Bedding, L C; Bell, A B; Bell, C A; Bellis, C K; Bence, S I; Bennett, A; Bennett, G F; Bennett, J C; Bennett, L; Bentley, N A J; Bere, A M C; Bertram, N; Bestow, L C; Beswick, D A; Betts, A B; Bevan, L A; Bevan, N J; Biggs, T J; Billingham, K; Bindra, H S; Binns, M E; Birch, Y; Birchall, R; Bishop, M; Blackwood, P D; Blair, A P K; Blake, E V; Bloom, B K; Blyth, S J; Bodington, C E; Bodkin, R S; Bones, A; Boreman, S; Borders, J J; Bourton, Y E; Bowen, D; Bowler, L J; Boyle, M M; Boynton, H; Bozman, A D; Brackenbury, C E; Braddick-Hughes, P K; Brades, K J; Bradley, E J; Bradley, S H; Brady, E J; Brennan, D E; Bridge, A; Bridgen, M J; Broad, M E; Broddley, M C; Brooke, J; Brookes, A D; Brooks, P A; Brown, B C; Brown, J; Brown, L M; Brown, T L; Bryan, J A; Brydon, A F; Buckingham-Moseley, J K; Buckmaster, P K; Bullman, S M; Bunney, A J; Bunyan, K J; Burfield, M J; Burgess, G; Burgess, J A; Burke, M W; Burnand, P T; Burnett, L E; Burrill, J L; Burton, J F; Bustin, C A; Butcher, A D; Butland, H C; Butler, S P; Byrne, T A

Cahill, P N; Caira, V J; Calvey, M G; Calvy, M B; Cameron, A D; Camp, M A; Campbell, J O; Campbell, K M; Campbell, P A; Campbell, S; Campone, T W; Canadine, T; Cannon, A W; Carlin, J; Carney, M L; Carr, R J; Carter, R D; Cartwright, R J; Caswell, C C; Chadwick, S; Chambers, E B; Chambers, L J; Chance, H P; Chapman, C L; Chapman, F; Chapman, S J; Charlton, K; Charmbury, R L; Chhaya, B; Chick, T J; Chisholm, D; Chisholm, D G; Chuter, S F; Cinque, M J; Clapham, E; Clare, M E; Clark, D; Clark, H A; Clark, J W; Clark, L K; Clark, M; Clark, S; [illegible]; Cleaver, R P; Clement, J M; Clifford, E P; Clifton-Timms, E; Coates, D; Coates, J F; Cody, R M; Cole, C; Colley, J; Collingbourne, T M; Collins, A; Collinson, G; Colville, S W W; Colwell, J; Concannon, N P; Conroy, B T; Conway, G; Conway, R A; Cook, D N; Cook, V; Cooke, H A; Cooke, L D; Coombs, A L; Coop, D W; Cooper, J A; Cooper, R S; Coppard, D J; Coppens, C E; Copper, J P; Cornall, S L; Cossey, T J; Cottis, B C; Couzins, C J; Cox, B S; Coward, D J; Craig, D J; Craven, S J; Creasy, N A; Critchley, J D; Cromey, B J; Croome, T L; Crossley, J; Crossman, A P; Cummings, D A; Curnow, M J

Dale, C P; Dalloway, S; Danaher, J P; Danylkiw, P; Darnell, D; Dauncey, J A; Davenport, P J; Davenport, S C; Davidson, M; Davies, A J; Davies, R M; Davis, J M; Davis, P L; Day, J C; Day, V E; De Kretser, B J; Deboo, D; Dennehy, P E; Denny, K J; Deol, R K; Derbyshire, L M; Desai, N D; Desborough, E; Devlin, A J; Devonald, B; Dewell, L C; Dhaliwal, K K; Dias, N; Dibley, H M; Dignam, J M; Dimmock, F; Dixey, D; Dixon, M E; Dixon, S A; Doran, A J; Doshi, P; Douglas, M R; Dove, L C A; Doyle, D; Drake, J S; Duff, E J; Duff, S A; Dulai, A K; Dunlop, J M; Dunn, G; Dunn, M; Dunning, D R; Dyas, K J; Dyer, B A; Dymond, J S; Dyson, S E

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Farran, L J; Farrell, N D; Fazakerley, C; Featherstone, J M; Feist, D A; Fenn, M T; Fennelly, P; Ferguson, M V; Fernand, K; Ferrett, J M; Ferries, J A; Fielder, S F; Fitzpatrick, J; Flaherty, D C; Ford, S M; Fordham, E A; Forty, L; Foster, J; Foster, M A; Foster, S J; Fowler, P A; Fox, J; Foyster, E M; Frain, H M; Franklin, A P; Freemantle, K J; French, A L; Fritsche, S E M; Frost, N J; Fry, L A; Fuldge, P A; Fuller, A J; Funnell, A G

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Ibrahim, A; Ingram, A J; Ingrey, N G; Iveson, J

Jackman, D; Jackson, J A; Jackson, R S; Jackson, S D; Jackson, S J; James, D; James, D P; James, M R; James, S M; Jandu, J K; Jefcoat, P J; Jeffs, N B; Jenkins, C L; Jenkins, J H; Jepson, S P; Jinks, F J; Joel, T M; John, G B; Jones, A J; Jones, H R; Jones, J T; Jones, K C; Jones, N J; Jones, S E; Jordan, E J; Jordan, J A; Jordan, T A D; Jung, M

Kataria, K A; Kaur, D; Kelly, P F; Kelman, E; Kemp, B M; Kemp, A K; Kendall, D M; Kennedy, A M; Kennedy, L A; Kennedy, A F; Kenny, R W; Kenny, A M; Kerns, J S; Kershaw, C N; Keys, D A; Killeen, A M; Kellen, J A; Killen, M J; Kinch, G J; Kinden, J A; King, A L; Kinghorn, H T; Kinnersley, A J; Kitchen, N J; Kitous, S E P; Klewzyc, A; Knapton, P; Knifton, C J; Knighton, J A; Kundra, G K; Kung, Y C; Kwan, F T F

Lake, E L; Lakeman, S J; Lam, C K; Lam, K K; Lam, K Y; Lambert, S M; Lamont, S J; Lamzed-Short, S J; Lane, S A; Lang, G J; Lark, L J; Larwood, M F; Lazzewsld, H C; Lau, S; Laverack, S J; Law, W Y T; Lea, J M; Leahy, P M; Leakey, D; Lee, K S; Lee, J; Leeburn, S; Lennox, T P; Lester, J C; Leung, P K; Leung, Y W; Lewis, A J; Lewis, P Y; Lewis, R W; Lewis, S J; Lewiston, M L; Li, J S K; Lim, C S; Lindor, C L; Llewellyn, S L; Lloyd, G B; Lock, R A; Lomas, S; Long, P J; [illegible]

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Nana, H; Nash, S A; Naylor, E F; Nazir, A; Neill, R; Nellist, D J; Nevill, V J; Newbert, P E; Newbold, J; Newman, M; Newton, L; Nichols, T L; Noonan, P B; Norman, J M; North, L; Nott, J A

O'Callaghan, T J; O'Hora, J; O'Neill, A F; O'Neill, J; Oldfield, J D; Oliver, J M; Oppong, M A; Organ, A P; Osman, D A; Overton, H F; Owen, C A; Oxby, M

Paes, C P; Painter, K A; Painter, S P L; Palmer, H G; Palmer, J P; Parker, S J; Parkes, P; Parry, G T; Partridge, N J; Patchett, C A; Patel, M J; Patel, S; Paterson, R; Patterson, B M; Payne, A J; Pearson, J; Pearson, S A; Pedder, E C; [illegible]

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Uddin, S; Underwood, N T; Upton, J A; Urmson, J S

Valcin, L M; Van-Cooten, J L; Vingoe, A G

Wade, H W; Wagland, S R; Wagner, C J; Wagstaffe, J L; Wakelin, M A; Wales, E; Walker, A M; Walker, G J; Walker, J E; Walker, V; Walker, V L; Wallenda, A J; Waller, A; Walls, R K; Walsh, J A; Walters, G P; Ward, C; Ward, S J; [illegible]

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Former Great Britain coach makes unexpected return as player

Sydney Tigers add Hanley to squad for ARL season

By Christopher Irvine

THE Australian Rugby League (ARL), which spent £5.5 million on nine British-based players at the height of the inflationary war with Super League last year, yesterday announced that Ellery Hanley, the former Great Britain captain and coach, will be joining Sydney Tigers for the forthcoming ARL season. He will be 35 next month.

Hanley received an initial £250,000 signing-on fee from the ARL and is due a further £200,000 over three years. His last competitive appearance was for Leeds ten months ago. A damaged shoulder, which would have put lesser players out of the game, has undergone extensive repair.

Hanley maintains that he is fit, but part of his job description involving junior coaching and marketing may occupy more of his energies than might have been expected of a full-time player. The ARL expected Hanley to compete in the World Sevens last weekend, but he attracted criticism for standing down from a well-beaten Great Britain side.

It was thought that he would fill a senior coaching position at one of the dozen clubs to remain loyal to the ARL in its dispute with the breakaway Super League. However, nothing was seen as suitable, so Hanley was given a playing contract with the former Balmain club, where he had a summer stint eight years ago. Wayne Pearce, the Tigers' coach, said that he intended to use Hanley's experience in a wide range of positions.

Hanley, who is expected to return to Sydney before the season starts, in three weeks, said: "I have fond memories of my time there in 1988 and am looking forward to helping the Tigers become a top premiership side."

Craig Innes, Hanley's former Leeds colleague and another highly-priced ARL recruit from the British game, had planned to leave Headingley today to join Manly-Warringah, but has been persuaded to stay on, at least until after the Silk Cut Challenge Cup fifth-round tie at Warrington on Saturday.

As Innes, the New Zealand centre, is under contract at Leeds until June and Manly want him immediately, the decision on who benefits from his services appears to be destined for the courts.

Martin Offiah, the Wigan and Great Britain rugby league wing, would consider playing rugby union on a short-term contract next winter, subject to his club's agreement, according to Alan McColm, his agent. McColm said yesterday that five union clubs had inquired about Offiah's availability after the Super League season.

Of the remaining recruits, only Hanley and Lee Jackson, the Great Britain hooker, now at Newcastle Knights, have had their futures with the ARL determined. Jonathan Davies, who received a £100,000 signing-on fee, is back in rugby union at Cardiff. Martin Hall, Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly are tied to Wigan for one, two and three years, respectively. Kevin Ellis, a member of a discredited Great Britain sevens entry in Sydney, is only nominally linked to North Queensland and Steve Hampson, 34, another Britain veteran now at Salford, has still to be allocated a club.

Embarrassment at the sums paid by the ARL extends to the calibre of some of those signed up: not that cents prevailed in the ARL's desperate mission to buy players and win kudos in the marathon struggle against Super League, in which it is now isolated from the rest of the rugby league world.

The ARL season starts at the same time as the ten-team Australasian Super League is due to launch on March 1 — the European version begins on March 29 — although the imminent judgment of James Burchett, an Australian federal court judge, on loyalty contracts that the ARL claims clubs signed before switching caps to Super League, is of more immediate concern.

News Limited, the Australian arm of the News Corporation, which is the parent company of *The Times*, claims the agreements were signed under duress, are anti-competitive and should be declared void. Whatever Judge Burchett's decision, it will not mark the end of the legal road. Both sides have indicated that, should they lose, they will appeal.

☐ A Rugby Football League board of directors' proposal for a change in voting rights was overwhelmingly accepted by a special general meeting of clubs in Leeds yesterday. Super League clubs will receive four votes each, first division clubs two apiece and second division clubs one each. The clubs added a rider that at least 16 of them would have to back any proposal for it to be passed.

STUART D FRANKLIN

Hanley will be taking his formidable skills to Sydney this season in the ARL

McRae aims to join rallying's all-time greats

Oliver Holt meets a driver determined not to dwell on the glories of last year

It is nearly three months since Colin McRae won the world rally championship, but it does not seem to have changed him. He has not developed a taste for fancy jewellery, he has not mastered the art of the soundbite for the media who crowd around him, he still gets his mum to do his ironing whenever he can and he wants to win just as badly as ever.

McRae begins the defence of his crown in Karlstad tomorrow on the first day of the Swedish rally. Some have suggested that his motivation may not be what it was because he has already claimed the sport's biggest prize. Others, including Carlos Sainz, his arch-rival, have predicted that his rivals will try to make it especially difficult for him to repeat his success.

"I know what it is like trying to defend a title," Sainz, who was involved in a bitter battle for the championship with McRae last year, said.

"There is no doubt Colin will be a marked man. When you are world champion, everyone is out to beat you. The pressure on Colin to continue his winning streak will be tremendous. Everyone will be expecting him to keep delivering the goods."

McRae, 27, has reacted to all the speculation with his usual sang-froid. Yesterday, he warmed up for the rally in the frozen wastes of northern Sweden by clowning around on a skidoo.

His responses to the doubters were characteristically short and to the point. He wants more, not less. "In many ways, I think the pressure on me this year will not be as great," he said.

"I want to win again and I probably feel a bit more confident than last year because of having one title under my belt already. People are talking about this year as though there is nothing left to achieve, but it is still a big, big challenge.

"One of the largest motivating factors is that there have only been two other drivers — Miki Biasion and Juha Kankkunen — who have won back-to-back world rally championships, so to equal them would be a big thrill.

"Then, I want to go on and win a third, and no one has done that before."

McRae's main challenge this year may come from Kenneth Eriksson, his new team-mate, but the Scot is the hot favourite. Sainz is driving for Ford this year and is unlikely to be competitive early in the season, and even though the New Zealand rally, which McRae has won two years in succession, and the RAC rally are not on the calendar this year, it is still packed full of the type of gravel events that he relishes.

"The rougher gravel rallies suit me a lot better, but I went head-to-head with Carlos on tarmac last season in Catalunya so I don't even have any hang-ups about that any more," he said.

"Nothing has really changed from last season. I have been too busy testing and doing a team tour to the Far East to notice any differences in my life caused by being world champion. I was invited on *Question of Sport*, but that is about it."

McRae, right, and Derek Ringer, his co-driver, celebrate victory in the Network Q RAC Rally

Scotland see no reason to change for Wales

By Mark Souster

SCOTLAND, predictably, named an unchanged rugby union side yesterday to play Wales in the five nations' championship in Cardiff on February 17; but, while selection was automatic after the victory over France last Saturday, Jim Telfer, the team manager, moved quickly to ensure that none of the players would get carried away by the euphoria that greeted that victory.

Telfer told a press conference at Murrayfield yesterday: "I still think that the performance in Ireland was more complete [than that against France], because we stuck to our game plan better. I think we showed inexperience against France, almost to the point of naivety; luckily it wasn't punished. There is a lot of tightening up to do. I feel a lot of the players were doing something which they have never done before.

"Personally, I was worried about the lack of composure, the inability of the players, when they were 16-8 ahead, to go further ahead. France did not impose themselves that much."

Harsh words, perhaps, but, in his own way, Telfer was already indulging in the sort of psychological warfare that is an intrinsic part of modern sport. He was also ensuring that the players in his charge, many of whom were written off a month ago, keep their feet on the ground in the wake of two subsequent victories.

Telfer is a pragmatist and, as he admitted yesterday, he prefers to look for flaws. "I like working from a position of adversity," he said.

He expressed surprise that the home victory over France, which partially avenged the disappointment of the World Cup, had had such an impact when wins at Murrayfield 15 years ago were "run of the mill".

He said: "The manner may have been different, but we should not get carried away by winning at home." Telfer stressed that he was taking nothing away from the players who "work well for each other". More pointedly, he added: "There are no stars, as yet. They are still on a learning curve and, as long as they stick to that, the better."

Looking to the challenge of Wales, Telfer said that he had been especially impressed by Robert Howley, the scrum half who made his debut against England, a player whom he likened to Joost van der Westhuizen, the South African who almost singlehandedly destroyed Scotland at Murrayfield in 1994.

He believes that Wales would have gained more from the international at Twickenham last Saturday than England, who appeared riven by internal strife. "They [Wales] will be a completely different team [than France]," he said. "It is a new side and they will make life difficult for us. They are very fit and work for each other, they seem to have no inhibitions, some of them are not old enough even to have nerves."

With a possible grand slam showdown against England in a month's time on the horizon, Telfer likened the match in Cardiff to a cup semi-final ... "and everyone hates to lose semi-finals," he said.

SCOTLAND: R J S Shepherd (Melrose); C A Joiner (Melrose), S Hastings (Watsonians), I C Jardine (Stirling County), M Dods (Northampton), G P J Townsend (Northampton), B W Redpath (Melrose); D I W Hilton (Bath), K D McKenzie (Stirling County), P H Wright (Boroughmuir), R I Wainwright (Watsonians, captain), S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP), G W Weir (Newcastle), I R Smith (Gloucester), E W Peters (Bath). Replacements: K M Logan (Stirling County), C M Chalmers (Melrose), G Armstrong (Newcastle), S Murray (Edinburgh Academicals), A P Burnell (London Scottish), J A Hay (Hawick)

RFU stands firm on TV decision

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

REPRESENTATIVES of England's leading sports, under the auspices of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, will meet the Government's policy unit tomorrow to confirm their free-market convictions after the vote in the House of Lords on Tuesday night preventing exclusive satellite broadcasting of core sporting events.

The Rugby Football Union's (RFU) stance remains unchanged, particularly in a season that will see the conclusion of Pilkington's sponsorship of the junior knockout competition that began six years ago. The RFU believes that such grass-roots elements will receive wider coverage from satellite than on busy terrestrial channels.

"There are different aspects to the packages available to television," Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said yesterday, "and we are better placed to mastermind the packages." Already, BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, has a three-year agreement to screen the Middlesex Sevens, while the new Heineken Cup is broadcast by ITV; BBC's contract for home-unions rugby has 15 months to run.

The Pilkington Shield caters for more than 500 clubs at the bottom end of the game; it is likely that, in future, it will be joined with a new intermediate competition and offered as a package linked to coverage of the Pilkington Cup.

The bad weather is likely to hit the delayed fifth round of the Pilkington Cup. Seven games are scheduled for Saturday, but, even if the tie between Leeds and London Irish goes ahead, the Irish will be without David Humphreys, 24, who joins the international squad for training, having made strong claims for his first cap against France on Saturday week.

Faldo sees pitfalls in dual role for captain

NICK FALDO welcomes Seve Ballesteros's nomination as Europe's next Ryder Cup captain, but has some reservations as to whether he should also fulfil a playing role against the United States in Spain next year (a Special Correspondent writes).

Ballesteros has expressed a desire to become the first playing captain since Arnold Palmer in 1963. Yet Faldo believes that would be a tremendous strain, even though the Spaniard is better equipped than most to cope with the intense pressure.

"If anyone can do it, Seve can, but it will present an awful lot of headaches," Faldo said on the eve of starting his challenge for the Buick Invitational, that begins today in San Diego.

"I am sure Seve will work out a game plan of how to cope with it mentally, but it is going to be very difficult. It is exhausting enough just playing, let alone trying to fulfil two roles and being concerned with what the rest of the team is doing."

Faldo, the most experienced of Europe's Cup squad with a record-equalling ten appearances, would also like to see the burden lifted from the captain's shoulders in the two-year build-up to an event that has grown into golf's most glittering spectacle.

Lanny Wadkins, the beaten United States captain, was restricted to 20 tournaments last year and finished 162nd in the rankings. "I felt sorry for Bernard Gallacher [the European captain], who spent two years before the match doing public relations stuff and that's not right," he said. "It is no coincidence that a captain's form suffers."

Faldo, who was within striking distance of his first win of the year before rain washed out the final two rounds of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am last weekend, played a practice round yesterday even though fog reduced visibility to less than 80 yards on the south course at Torrey Pines.

Barry Lane was unable to get on to the course, being confined to bed with a throat infection.

Couples returns to defend Dubai title

FRED COUPLES, of the United States, is to defend his title in the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament from March 14 to 17, despite the clash with Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Invitational tournament on the US PGA Tour.

He will meet ten of Europe's winning Ryder Cup side, including Seve Ballesteros, who has not played since September. Only Nick Faldo and Bernhard Langer will be missing.

The field will also include José María Olazábal, who has been resting since September because of the foot injury that forced him to withdraw from the Ryder Cup.

Last season, Couples was joined in Dubai by Greg Norman, Nick Price and Ernie Els, the world's top three, but none is returning this time because the tournament has been switched from January because of the religious festival of Ramadan and to make room for the new European Tour event in Australia.

Much to the delight of the Europeans in the field, unhappy with the level of appearance-money paid last time, prize-money is going up from £450,000 to £650,000.

Most of the money from the first two events on the Tour has gone the way of Ian Woosnam, who has earned almost three times as much as his closest rival. The Welshman's victories in Singapore and Australia have seen him win £193,000, with Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, second on the earnings list on £66,600.

Paul McGinley, of Ireland, who was runner-up to Woosnam in Australia, moved up to third place with £52,950.

The PGA Seniors championship is to be sponsored by The Belfry — scene of the past three Ryder Cup matches in Great Britain — for the next ten years. The 1996 event, with a £150,000 prize fund, will be from August 22 to 25, and the organisers hope to attract leading players from the United States Seniors Tour.

LEADING EUROPEAN TOUR MONEY-WINNERS: 1, I Woosnam (Wales) £193,000; 2, A Coltart (Scot) £66,660; 3, P McGinley (Ire) £52,960; 4, J van de Velde (Fr) £50,520; equal 5, O Karlsson (Swe), P Curry (Eng) and W Riley (Aus) £30,870; 8, D Clarke (N Ire) £14,650; 9, R Boxall (Eng) £13,930; 10, A Hunter (Scot) £13,900.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ALLMAND, BEATRICE ALLMAND SPINSTER late of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died there on 9 January 1995 (Estate about £6,000)

BARFORD, GORDON FRANCIS BARFORD otherwise FRANCIS GORDON BARFORD late of Walworth, London SE17 died at Lambeth, London SE1 on 18 November 1995 (Estate about £35,000)

BELLINGER, ALBERT FRANK BELLINGER late of Frome, Somerset died at Bath, Avon on 22 October 1995 (Estate about £30,000)

BROWN otherwise REID, VINCENT GEORGE REID BROWN otherwise VINCENT GEORGE REID late of Brockley, London SE4 died there on 24 February 1995 (Estate about £45,000)

CARTER, JOHN FREDERICK CARTER late of Hampton, Middlesex died there on 6 July 1995 (Estate about £60,000)

CRAWLEY, CECIL GEORGE CRAWLEY late of Llanelli, Dyfed died there on 20 October 1995 (Estate about £65,000)

DINES, THEODORE ROBERT WHITBY DINES otherwise THEODORE ROBERT WITBY DINES late of Brixham, Devon died at Torquay, Devon on 30 May 1995 (Estate about £90,000)

ELLCOMBE, JOHN ELLCOMBE late of Greenwich, London SE10 died there on 12 March 1984 (Estate about £10,000)

GREEN, ROLAND GREEN late of Sandy, Bedfordshire died at Bedford on 2 January 1995 (Estate about £60,000)

KERSLEY, GERTRUDE PHEBE KERSLEY SPINSTER late of Ilkley, West Yorkshire died there on 30 May 1995 (Estate about £6,400)

MASLIN nee BOVINGDON, GRACE ELIZABETH MASLIN nee BOVINGDON WIDOW late of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire died there on 12 June 1994 (Estate about £6,000)

MUDIE, ERIC MUDIE late of Morpeth, Northumberland died there on 16 March 1995 (Estate about £75,000)

OLDRIDGE nee IVERSEN, GRETHE KATHIE OLDRIDGE nee IVERSEN WIDOW late of Leeds, West Yorkshire died there on 24 July 1994 (Estate about £20,000)

SMITH, KENNETH FORBES MYRTLE SMITH otherwise KENNETH FORBES SMITH late of Putney, London SW15 died there on 17 September 1995 (Estate about £50,000)

VEREY, ALFRED CHARLES JOSEPH VEREY late of Portsmouth, Hampshire died there on 21 February 1995 (Estate about £45,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

TUBB, CHARLES FREDERICK EDWIN TUBB late of Droitwich, Hereford died there on 23 June 1991 (Estate about £12,000)

The widow and kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Fison Memorial Lectureship
Scheme for the reconstruction of the body of trustees.
Ref. GA-288369/8888-CD/Ldn

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Joint Liquidators

Name of company Spry Nominees Limited. Nature of business Dormant Company. Address of registered office 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH. Joint Liquidators names and address G H Hughes and S J L Adamson, Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road London SE1 7EU. Date of appointment 26 January 1996. By whom appointed Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Spry Nominees Limited
(In Liquidation)

The creditors of the above-named company are requested, on or before 8 March 1996 to send their names, addresses and particulars of their claims to the undersigned, the Joint Liquidators of the company, at Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU.
Date 1 February 1996.
G H Hughes, Joint Liquidator.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND BENEFICIARIES TO SEND IN CLAIMS UNDER TRUSTEE ACT 1925 SECTION 27
Re ROSA SANDGROUND
Deceased

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 NOTICE is given that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of Rosa Sandground late of 28 Canons Drive, Edgware, Middlesex who died on the 20th day of March 1995 and whose will was proved in the Principal Registry of the Family Division on the 30th day of January 1996 by Allan Maurice Cushnir the executor named in it are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned solicitors on or before the 18th day of April 1996 after which date the said executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to them having regard only to the claims of which he then has had notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands he then has not had notice.

DATED the 5th day
of February 1996.
Messrs Palmer Cowen
16 Berkeley Street,
London W1X 5AE.
Ref: AM/S33101
Solicitors for the Executor

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Joint Liquidators

Name of company Stock One. Nature of business Consumer Credit License Company. Address of registered office 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH. Joint Liquidators names and address G H Hughes and S J L Adamson, Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU. Date of appointment 26 January 1996. By whom appointed Creditors.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Stock One
(In Liquidation)

The creditors of the above-named company are requested, on or before 8 March 1996 to send their names, addresses and particulars of their claims to the undersigned, the Joint Liquidators of the company, at Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU.
Date 1 February 1996
G H Hughes, Joint Liquidator.

In the matter of
PROGRESSIVE SHIPMANAGEMENT LIMITED

Nature of Business: Ship Managers. Administration Order: 29 January 1996 Name of Administrator: Simon Geoffrey Paterson. Address of Administrator: Moore Stephens Booth White, 88 New Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4QR Dated 2 February 1996. Simon G Paterson. Administrator.

Notice of appointment of Joint Liquidators

Name of company Equity Plan Nominees Limited. Nature of business Nominee Company. Address of registered office 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH Joint Liquidators names and address G H Hughes and S J L Adamson, Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU. Date of appointment 26 January 1996. By whom appointed Creditors.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Equity Plan Nominees Limited
(In Liquidation)

The creditors of the above-named company are requested, on or before 8 March 1996 to send their names, addresses and particulars of their claims to the undersigned, the Joint Liquidators of the company, at Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU.
Date 1 February 1996.
G H Hughes, Joint Liquidator.

BALTIC COURT LIMITED
and LEANMINSTER LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that meetings of the creditors of the above named companies will be held at 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF on 14th February 1996 at 11.30 am and 12 noon respectively for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.

A list of the names and addresses of the above Companies Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meetings of Creditors.

Dated this 31st January 1996.
Robert N Paddick, Director.

No 00313 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
COBHAM PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 18th January 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of share premium account of the above-named Company by £43,609,202.59.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court sitting in open Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 21st day of February 1996

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same

DATED this 1st day
of February 1996.
McKenna & Co. Mitre House.
160 Aldersgate Street,
London EC1A 4DD
Solicitors
for the above-named Company

Notice of appointment of Joint Liquidators

Name of company Stock Beech & Co Limited. Nature of business Consumer Credit License Company. Address of registered office 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH. Joint Liquidators names and address G H Hughes and S J L Adamson, Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU Date of appointment 26 January 1996 By whom appointed Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Stock Beech & Co Limited
(In Liquidation)

The creditors of the above-named company are requested, on or before 8 March 1996 to send their names, addresses and particulars of their claims to the undersigned, the Joint Liquidators of the company, at Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU.
Date 1 February 1996.
G H Hughes, Joint Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986
Premiair Ventilation Limited
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that G C A Morphitis of Grant Thornton, 22 Melton Street, Euston Square, London, NW1 2EP was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the Members and Creditors on 29th January 1996

Dated this 29th January 1996
G C A Morphitis, Liquidator

Notice of appointment of Joint Liquidators

Name of company Stock Group (London) Limited. Nature of business Stockbroker. Address of registered office 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH. Joint Liquidators names and address G H Hughes and S J L Adamson, Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU. Date of appointment 26 January 1996. By whom appointed Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Stock Group (London) Limited
(In Liquidation)

The creditors of the above-named company are requested, on or before 8 March 1996 to send their names, addresses and particulars of their claims to the undersigned, the Joint Liquidators of the company, at Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU.
Date 1 February 1996
G H Hughes, Joint Liquidator

Notice of appointment of Joint Liquidators

Name of company BCMB Property Management Limited. Nature of business Holding Company. Address of registered office 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH. Joint Liquidators names and address G H Hughes and S J L Adamson, Ernst & Young Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU. Date of appointment 26 January 1996 By whom appointed Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
BCMB Property Management Limited
(In Liquidation)

The creditors of the above-named company are requested, on or before 8 March 1996 to send their names, addresses and particulars of their claims to the undersigned, the Joint Liquidators of the company, at Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU
Date 1 February 1996.
G H Hughes, Joint Liquidator.

Notice of appointment of Joint Liquidators

Name of company BCMB Nominees Limited. Nature of business Nominee Company Address of registered office 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH. Joint Liquidators names and address G H Hughes and S J L Adamson, Ernst & Young Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU Date of appointment 26 January 1996. By whom appointed Creditors.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
BCMB Nominees Limited
(In Liquidation)

The creditors of the above-named company are requested, on or before 8 March 1996 to send their names, addresses and particulars of their claims to the undersigned, the Joint Liquidators of the company, at Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU
Date 1 February 1996.
G H Hughes, Joint Liquidator

هكذا في الأصل

Hall settles lingering doubt about Asprilla

By Peter Ball

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA is not yet a Newcastle United player, but, work permits and residency permitting, there is little doubt now that he soon will be. The disputes with Parma over his fitness were dismissed yesterday as Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, confirmed that the £6.7 million transfer from the Italian club would go through in the next day or so.

"As I understand it, the deal has been sorted out and, hopefully, he will be coming to Newcastle to sign," Hall said yesterday morning.

The news came as a welcome relief to Kevin Keegan, whose determination to land the player had never wavered. The knee problem that delayed the transfer and threatened to halt it, and doubts about the Colombia international's temperament — to say nothing of a suspended jail sentence for firearms offences — had caused some to look askance at Keegan's enthusiasm, but the Newcastle manager remained adamant.

"Obviously there were doubts in everybody's minds, because of what has gone on," Keegan said last night. "A lot of rubbish has been written about the lad, much of which I found in bad taste.

"I've seen what other people say about him, but, if I had signed players on the basis of what I heard about them, David Ginola and Andy Cole would not have come to this club, and the fans would have missed some great players.

"You've got to have the courage to look at what you need and get the very best available. That's what I did.

"I'm just delighted that he's coming and will get the chance to prove his worth on the football field. That's where he should be judged, as far as I'm concerned."

If Asprilla, 26, proves as successful — and as popular — as Cole and Ginola at St James' Park, Keegan will have proved his point beyond contradiction, and may also have the FA Carling Premiership title as his reward. The manager has no doubts about the quality of his imminent signing, nor of his likely impact on the Newcastle supporters.

"It's just my opinion, but I would rate him among the top five [forwards] in the world," Keegan said. "The crowd will love him — he's a matchwinner, a goalscorer and an entertainer.

"He's a real Newcastle player — quick, works hard and has flair. Faustino is the sort of player that Geordies love. The players they talk about are just like him. He will contribute a lot to what we do and will give us a new dimension."

As Keegan said, the thought of Asprilla playing with Beardsley and Ferdinand in the Newcastle attack is mouthwatering, or forbidding if you happen to be an opposing defender. However, with the run-in to the championship approaching, his integration will come at a time when Newcastle can ill afford to take pit-stops to fine-tune their engine.

"There will be language problems and he will take time to settle in," Keegan said. "Great players adapt, though, and there's a willingness on all sides to help him."

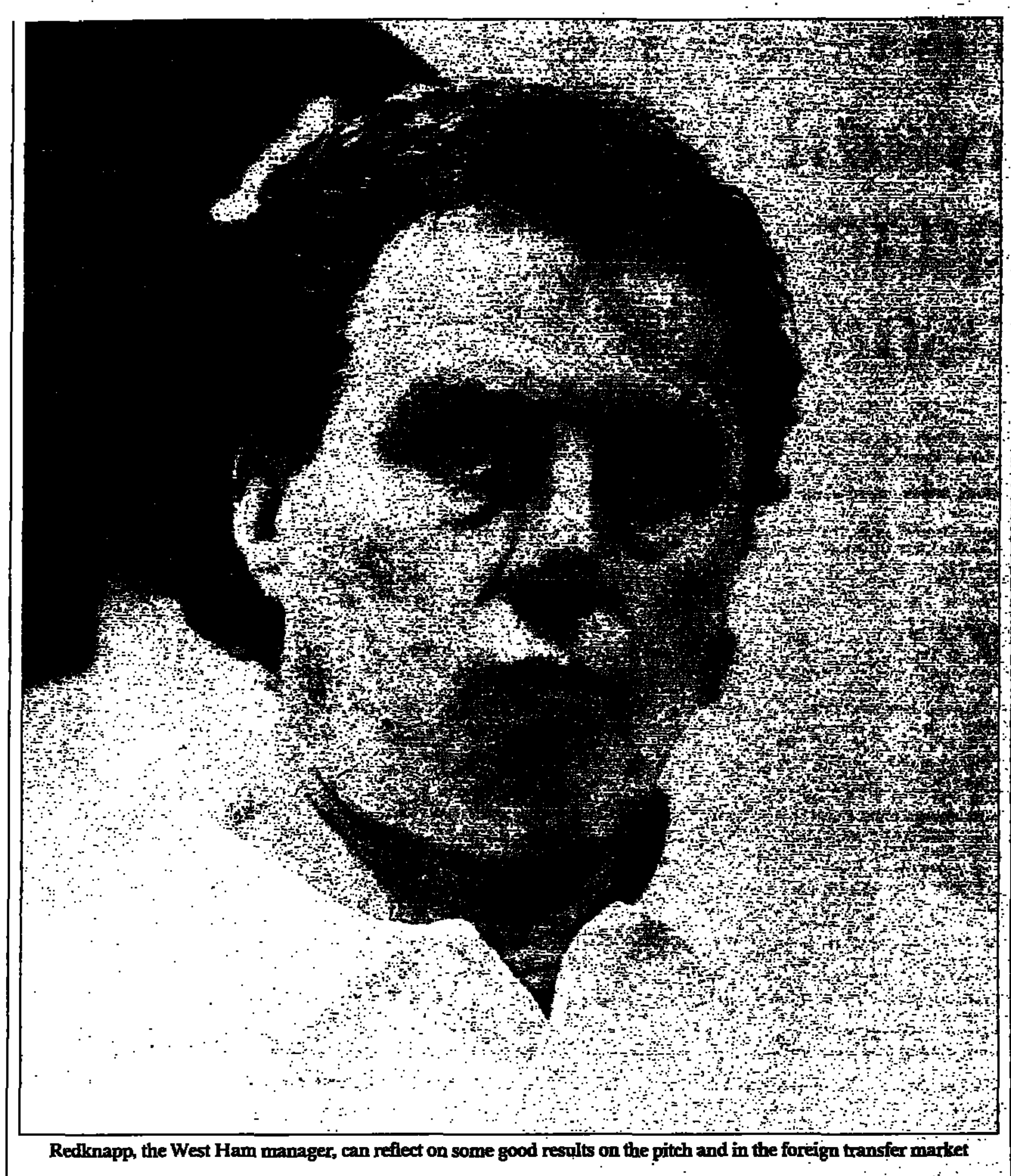
Newcastle will hope that the work permit will arrive sooner rather than later, with some initial problems in fitting him into the side appearing inevitable. Keegan, always the enthusiast, did not see any problems as insuperable.

"It will be interesting to see how Les Ferdinand and Peter Beardsley bounce off him," he said. "It depends on how he adjusts to English football, but he falls in line with a lot of the players we've got here.

"He will be very comfortable with them. Great players like playing alongside great players — and we have great players here."

At least, with Juninho at Middlesbrough and Branco also expected to join the Teesside club, Asprilla will have some fellow South Americans nearby, unlike Mirandinha, the last South American to play for Newcastle. Branco watched Middlesbrough's FA Cup fourth round tie with Wimbledon last night, with transfer formalities to be followed up this morning.

Saso Udovic scored six goals in 38 minutes in Slovenia's 7-1 rout of Iceland in the opening match of a four-nation tournament in Valetta, Malta yesterday. Iceland scored first, in the fortieth minute, but Udovic replied a minute later, and then in the 47th, 57th, 69th, 74th and 79th minutes.



Redknapp, the West Ham manager, can reflect on some good results on the pitch and in the foreign transfer market

Redknapp happy with foreign legion

Russell Kempson finds the West Ham manager with reasons to be cheerful

TWO months ago, Harry Redknapp pronounced himself satisfied with West Ham United's respectable tenth place in the FA Carling Premiership. "It's a bit strange," he mused. "We don't have anything to fight for. We're not used to that." He should have known better. After a sequence of six defeats in seven matches, West Ham were back in the mire.

Successive victories over Coventry City and Nottingham Forest have helped ease nagging fears of relegation. The addition, too, of representatives from Portugal, Croatia and Romania to Upton Park's ever-expanding foreign legion has restored the belief that West Ham will be comfortably clear of trouble when the day of reckoning arrives in May.

Redknapp, the manager, is happy again. "It's been a good few days," he said. "Beating Coventry and Forest was obviously important. We had to get things going after a poor run. It's all quiet on the transfer front now and I'm quite happy with the squad I've got."

Dani da Cruz Carvalho, 19, from Portugal, played for nine minutes in the 1-0 win over Forest on Saturday. His audacious, yet unsuccessful, attempt to score from the halfway line bodes well for the remainder of his loan period. Slaven Bilic, the Croatia captain, should don the claret and blue soon, while the future of Ilie Dumitrescu, of Romania, is likely to be decided today.

Work permit difficulties, because he played so few games for Tottenham Hotspur before moving to east London for £1.5 million, have cast a solitary shadow on Redknapp's contentment. "I really can't see why Ilie shouldn't get a permit," he said. "He's a top-class international and a lot of players that have been brought into this country aren't fit to lace his boots.

"The reason why he didn't play much at Tottenham was because he wasn't part of Gerry Francis's plans. That's Gerry's right, and he's been very successful in what he's done, but, if players can't get in one team, they then move on to another. That's the way it's always been. If a player can't play for his new club just because he didn't play enough times for his old club, no one would move anywhere."

Redknapp's disillusion with the bureaucratic process has been tempered by the sudden emergence of Danny Williamson from bit-part player to integral member of the side. After three seasons of going nowhere at Upton Park, apart from a loan spell at Doncaster Rovers, of the Endsleigh Insurance League third division, two years ago, Williamson, 22, is upstaging many of his more instantly recognisable team-mates.

Whether employed wide on the right, or in central midfield, he has proved equally effective. "He's been excellent for us in either position," Redknapp said. "He doesn't appear to have a problem wherever we put him. Good players can play anywhere and that's the way it's got to be nowadays. They have to be adaptable."

Although Blackburn Rovers have made an inquiry about Keith Rowland, the Northern Ireland utility player, who has started only six matches this season and recently served a two-match suspension, Redknapp now envisages a period of relative calm at the club. No more exotic imports and, preferably, nothing to fight for in the Premiership but respectability.

O'Sullivan in right mood to retain Masters

By Phil Yates

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN continues his attempt to emulate Cliff Thorburn and Stephen Hendry by becoming only the third snooker player in the 21-year history of the Benson and Hedges Masters to make a successful defence of the title when he meets Darren Morgan in the quarter-finals at Wembley Conference Centre tonight.

O'Sullivan will be hoping to reproduce the spellbinding form that helped him to win four successive frames during a 6-5 second-round victory over Nigel Bond on Tuesday evening in only 27 minutes.

As he helplessly watched a 4-1 lead turn into a 5-4 deficit, Bond did not pot a single ball while O'Sullivan, who scored 392 unanswered points, effortlessly compiled breaks of 109, 56, 81 and 128.

O'Sullivan made the game look so preposterously easy, potting difficult balls with only split-second sighting, avoiding the rest by competently playing certain shots left-handed, and displaying pinpoint positional accuracy, that one could not help but wonder why he has had such a miserable season.

With the exception of his triumph at the Liverpool Victoria charity challenge last month, which he achieved by showing a rare degree of restraint, O'Sullivan has suffered a succession of early losses and has slipped from third to seventh in the provisional world rankings.

O'Sullivan, who has progressed past the last 32 in only one of the first five ranking events of the 1995-96 campaign, admits that a lack of patience, particularly against little-known opponents, has been his downfall.

"I can play safety with the best of them, I just don't use enough of it," O'Sullivan, whose overly cavalier approach was responsible for his first-round elimination from the Thailand Classic, Skoda Grand Prix and German Open, said.

Perhaps he has learnt his lesson, because he insists that, despite beating Morgan in their three previous meetings, he regards the dogged Welshman as one of the game's most underrated exponents.

"Darren might be methodical and certainly not one of the best players to watch, but he is always very hard to beat," O'Sullivan said. He speaks from experience having been forced to recover from 8-4 down to defeat Morgan 13-8 in the last 16 of the world championship last year.

IHF holds inquiry into bribe allegations

OFFICIALS of the International Hockey Federation (IHF) have announced that an inquiry will be held into allegations of bribery in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona last month. The decision, made after a meeting in Brussels yesterday, follows further information being supplied by the Canadian hockey authorities.

The Canadians alleged that Malaysia tried to bribe England before their match and also questioned the goalless draw between Malaysia and India which enabled the Malaysians to qualify. Both the England and Malaysia authorities have denied any knowledge of the allegations. Els van Breda Vriesman, the IHF secretary-general, said: "No representative of the countries involved will have a presence on the disciplinary committee."

☐ An award of £626,000 to Southgate Sports and Leisure Trust by the National Lottery Sports Fund will enable Southgate to move to a new ground in Enfield.

Foster's drive

Swimming: Mark Foster won a Fiat car after setting the fifth-fastest 50 metre freestyle time at the World Cup meeting at Imperia in Italy yesterday. Foster, the Commonwealth champion, won the final in 21.70sec, 0.02sec outside the world record held by Alexander Popov, the Olympic champion. Popov finished second behind Foster in 21.90sec. Sarah Collings, of the City of Bradford club, finished third in the 400m freestyle in 4min 15.40sec — three seconds inside her career best.

Sapsford shock

Tennis: Ross Mathieson, of Scotland, beat Danny Sapsford, the No 1 seed, 7-6, 6-1 on the opening day of the LTA men's satellite event at Bramhall, Cheshire. Sapsford, ranked 270 places above his opponent, looked jaded after his journey from the Shanghai Open, where he was beaten by Jeff Tarango, in the second round. Mathieson, from Glasgow, took the initiative after a close opening set and, with the help of 11 aces, clinched victory in 1 hour 53 minutes. He now meets Scott Humphries, of the United States.

Happy Holmes

Athletics: Kelly Holmes won her first race of the year when she took the Army women's cross country title over a snowbound course at Longmoor, Hampshire, yesterday, in 17min 05sec.

Allen triumph

Real tennis: Katrina Allen, the former British Open champion, played some of the best tennis of her life and combined superbly with George Grundy, of Holyport, to win the British Land national mixed doubles championship at Hampton Court. The pair beat Penny Lumley, the former world champion, and Tom Kneen in the final.

Sprint surge

Cycling: Wilfried Nelissen, of Belgium, won a sprint finish to take the first stage of the Etoile de Besseges in Nîmes, France yesterday. Jan Svorada, of Slovakia, seized the overall lead.

Rangers keep Brazilian in sights

RANGERS hope to move a step closer to signing Jardel, the Brazilian, at a meeting of the Scottish League management committee today. They hope that the committee will give them permission to seek a work permit for the striker, even though there would still be considerable hurdles to overcome.

The champions of the Bell's League premier division may run into problems persuading the Home Office to grant Jardel such a permit, however, as he is not a full international.

Rangers would base their case on their belief that Jardel has the potential to become an exceptional player. He has visited the club and assured Walter Smith, the manager, that he is keen to join.

Rangers would claim an outstanding work permit available to Scottish clubs for non-European Union players. That became available when Oleg Salenko moved to Istanbulspor, of Turkey, in the swap that took Peter van Vossen, the Dutchman, to Ibrox.

Mark Ward, 33, the Birmingham City player-coach, has been told he can leave the first division club on a free transfer. The former Everton midfielder was transfer-listed at £250,000 in November after a contract dispute. "I am disappointed to have ended my spell like this because I wanted to help the club get into the Premier League," he said.

Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, is set to enter the transfer market again. He is seeking to sign the Peterborough leading scorer, Gary Martindale, and his team-mate, Gary Breen, in exchange for the transfer-listed Birmingham pair Steve Castle and Ken Charlerey.

Castle was signed for £250,000 from Plymouth in the summer but was listed by Fry, who has been pursuing the Ireland under-21 international Breen to boost his first division promotion campaign. Charlerey left Peterborough to join Birmingham six months ago but has also been placed on the list by Fry, and his return to London Road would be his third spell at the club.

Swansea City's new owner, Michael Thompson, yesterday announced that the club had appointed Kevin Cullis as manager. The appointment was unexpected as his experience has been confined to non-league football. He joins Swansea from Bilston United.

Wenton lines up bigger titles

By Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

RICHIE WENTON, the British super-bantamweight champion, may challenge for the world title at the end of the year. He has already had an offer to meet Marco Antonio Barrera, the formidable World Boxing Organisation champion, but has turned it down for the present.

Wenton and Barry Hearn, his manager, said yesterday that they were still interested in meeting Barrera — but had other plans first. Wenton expects to win the European title in May, a bout that Hearn hopes to put on in Liverpool.

Hearn said: "Barrera's people said they wanted Richie. We think a lot of Barrera, he's a great fighter — after a few more fights, we'll see what Richie's looking like. We'll have to see how he looks in his European title fight first. He's still learning."

Wenton had already tried unsuccessfully once to lift the European title, but, after watching him outpoint Wilson Docherty, of Glasgow, on Tuesday at Basildon, Hearn was confident that Wenton would beat Vincenzo Belcastro, of Italy, the European champion, on this occasion.

Hearn said: "Last time, Richie went out to Italy — he had no choice. Now, Belcastro is past his best and it's time Richie did a proper job on him. He started up sharp last time, but fell away badly. Get him in front of a Liverpool crowd and he'll take the title."

Although Wenton won the bout with Docherty by seven rounds to four, the champion was not given a moment's respite by the Scot and the bout was evenly poised up to the sixth round.

Huddersfield respond to orders

By Our Sports Staff

HUDDERSFIELD Town reached the last 16 of the FA Cup for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century on Tuesday night, but, halfway through their fourth-round tie with Peterborough United, such a prospect seemed a long, long way away. In the opening 45 minutes, they failed to register even one shot on goal and Peterborough, of the Endsleigh Insurance League second division, were scenting if not a Cup upset, then at least a replay.

At which point, Brian Horton stepped in. Behind closed dressing-room doors, Horton, the Huddersfield manager, read the riot act to his team at half-time, demanding a marked improvement in the second period. Suitably impressed, Huddersfield, of the first division, promptly stepped up a gear and goals from Darren Bullock and Andy Booth ensured their place in the next round with a home tie to come against Middlesbrough or Wimbledon.

"We got a real roasting from the gaffer at half-time and we deserved it," Bullock said. "He told us just what he thought of the performance and it did the trick because we went out after the break and showed what we can do. We had found it hard to break them down, but, once we got in front, we started to flow and it could have been four or five by the end."

"I was very angry because we'd played like we trained on Monday — useless," Horton said. "Perhaps they thought it was going to be easy, but that just doesn't happen and Peterborough were better than us because they worked harder. I had a right moan, probably the worst I've had to since I came here last summer."

Bullock put Huddersfield ahead after 52 minutes with a 20-yard drive before Booth, with his thirteenth goal of the season, ended Peterborough's slim hopes of staging a recovery.

Peterborough must now concentrate on a four-month fight to retain their second division status, and Mick Halsall, their manager, betrayed his concern at that prospect.

"We competed well enough, but it just showed that we have to strengthen the squad and, in particular, bring in another player up front," he said. "To be honest, we never really hurt them at any stage and now we've got to get our minds concentrated on climbing up the table."

THE TIMES
SNOWLINE
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REST OF EUROPE N. AMERICA/CANADA
ITALY • SPAIN/ANDORRA
ROMANIA/BULGARIA
or for a faxed report:
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FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): San Antonio 109 Charlotte 102; Cleveland 91 Boston 73; Orlando 112 Sacramento 102; Phoenix 106 Chicago 96, Milwaukee 114 Dallas 111, LA Lakers 99 Denver 73, Seattle 99 Houston 94

NATIONAL CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Crystal Palace 63 Sheffield 70

BOXING

ROCHESTER, New York: World Boxing Organisation middleweight championship: Lonnie Bradley (US, holder) ko Randy Smith (US) 2nd rnd.

BASILDON: British super-bantamweight championship: Richie Wenton (Liverpool, holder) bt Wilson Docherty (Scot) pts. Super-featherweight (4 rnds) Michael Wright (Chatham) bt Wayne Jones (Saltash) pts. Lightweight: Bobby Guynan (Eastham) bt Marc O'Callaghan (Tunbridge Wells) rsc 3rd rnd. Lightweight: David Kehoe (Witham) ko Simon Frailing (Hayes) 1st rnd. Super-bantamweight: Richard Evatt (Coventry) ko Joe Donahue (Walworth) 2nd rnd. Light-welterweight: George Smith (Basildon) bt Gary Beardsley (Belper) rsc 1st rnd. Heavyweight (6rnds): Garry Delaney (West Ham) bt Franco Wanyama (Uganda) pts

CRESTA RUN

BARON OBERTZEN CUP: 1, F Barnhard (Swtz) 2min 36.48sec; 2, M Hoare (GB) 2:36.54; 3, C Tesdorpf (Ger) 2:37.77.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four): Brisbane: Queensland 150. New South Wales 151-9 (D Tazelaar 5-37). Hobart: Tasmania 258-8 (M Atkinson 59, P Wilson 4-50) v South Australia.

BOMBAY: One-day international: Kenya 242-5. Holland 178-9

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Fourth round: Postponed: Shrewsbury v Liverpool; Swindon v Oldham. Fourth round replay: Postponed: Port Vale v Everton.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Airdrie v Hamilton. Third division: Postponed: Cowdenbeath v Livingston: Albion v East Stirling.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Postponed: Dunfermline v St Mirren. Third round replay: Postponed: East Fife v Caledonian Thistle.

Tuesday's late results

FA CUP: Fourth round: Huddersfield 2 Peterborough 0 (Huddersfield at home to Middlesbrough or Wimbledon). Postponed: Bolton v Leeds (to be played Feb 14), Ipswich v Walsall (Feb 13).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Swansea 0 Stockport 3. Postponed: Blackpool v Burnley; Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield, Carlisle v York; Wycombe v Rotherham. Third division: Colchester 1 Scarborough 1; Torquay 1 Barnet 1. Postponed: Chester v Northampton; Darlington v Hereford; Rochdale v Preston North End; Scunthorpe v Bury.

EUROPEAN SUPERCUP: First leg: Real Zaragosa 1 Ajax 1.

FRENCH LEAGUE: First division: Lens 1 Lille 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 4 Florida 2: NY Rangers 4 NY Islanders 2; Pittsburgh 6 Boston 5; Dallas 5 St Louis 2; Calgary 3 Ottawa 1, Chicago 5 Los Angeles 2

COPENHAGEN: Olympic qualifying tournament: Group A: Great Britain 4 Holland 1, Denmark 4 Slovenia 2; Great Britain 1 Denmark 1; Switzerland 2 Great Britain 2; Holland 0 Slovenia 8, Holland 1 Switzerland 7; Slovenia 4 Great Britain 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Great Britain	4	2	0	2	12	8	6
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	9	3	3
Denmark	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Slovenia	3	1	2	0	14	9	2
Holland	3	0	3	0	2	19	0

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British open championship: Second round: G Barker bt T Cockcroft 13-15, 15-8, 17-15, 18-16; W Boone bt D Johnson 15-1, 15-3, 15-1. Quarter-final: M Hue Williams w o P Brake scr.

REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT: British Land National mixed doubles championship: Final: K Allen and G Grundy bt P Lumley and T Kneen 6-3, 6-2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Postponed: Workington v Widnes.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Ulster 40 NSW 33.

POSTPONED: Heineken League: First division: Neath v Aberavon. WRU midweek competition: All matches. Club matches: Tredegar v Newbridge; Cambridge University v Royal Navy.

SPEED SKATING

GUILDFORD: International short track championships: Men: 1,000m: 1, M Vuillermin (It) 1min 44.52sec; 2, N Gooch (GB) 1:44.60. 1,500m: 1, Vuillermin 2:19.99; 2, Gooch 2:20.01. Women: 1,000m: 1, M Candini (It) 2:00.12; 3, D Palmer (GB) 2:01.03. 1,500m: 1, Candini 2:27.27 (world record); 2, Palmer 2:32.44

SWIMMING

IMPERIA, Italy: World Cup meeting: Men: 50m breaststroke: 1, J Kruppa (Ger) 28.16sec; 2, P Rogers (Aus) 28.18; 50m butterfly: 1, M Foster (GB) 23.63sec; 2, D Pimenkov (Russ) 24.56. 100m freestyle: 1, A Popov (Russ) 47.96; 2, Y Bruck (Isr) 48.62. 100m backstroke: 1, E Merisi (It) 53.93; 2, S Theloke (Ger) 54.52. 200m butterfly: 1, Rupprath 1:58.06; 2, L Sacchi (It) 1:59.71. 200m breaststroke: 1, Rogers 2:08.79; 2, M Arnoux (Fr) 2:13.80. 400m freestyle: 1, A Sleparov (Russ) 3:45.17; 2, G Housman (Aus) 3:49.22. 100m individual medley: 1, Kruppa 55.49; 2, M Malinski (Pol) 55.93. 400m individual medley: 1, Malinski 4min 09.20sec; 2, M Milenkovic (Slovenia) 4:21.21. Women: 50m freestyle: 1=, K Meissner (Ger) and V Susin (It) 26.09. 50m backstroke: 1, E Porta (It) 29.24; 2, Zhen Yingjuan (China) 29.44. 100m breaststroke: 1, H Denman (Aus) 1min 07.75sec; 2, L Lacusta (Rom) 1:09.02. 100m butterfly: 1, P Thomas (Aus) 1:00.97; 2, I Tocchini (It) 1:01.33. 200m freestyle: 1, C Poll (C Rica) 1:58.45; 2, P Harmokivi (Fin) 2:00.91. 200m backstroke: 1, L Vigarani (It) 2:10.67; 2, A Kejzar (Slovenia) 2:11.95. 800m freestyle: 1, U Yan (China) 8:38.34; 2, J Jung (Ger) 8:38.35. 200m individual medley: 1, N Sweetnam (Can) 2:15.38; 2, S Becue (Bel) 2:15.68.

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY: Benson and Hedges Masters: Second round: A Hicks (Eng) bt J Wattana (Thai) 6-4; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng) 6-5

TENNIS

BARMHALL: LTA men's satellite tournament (GB unless stated): First round: R Matheson bt D Sapsford 7-6, 6-1; S Humphries (US) bt N Weal 6-3, 6-7, 7-6.

SUNDERLAND: LTA women's satellite tournament (GB unless stated): Second round: N Egorova (Russ) bt C Dewanna (Fr) 7-6, 6-3; J Pullin bt A Tecsor (Rom) 6-1, 6-2; A Katsoulis (Gr) bt M Kucerova (Ger) 1-6, 6-4, 6-1; S-A Siddall bt M Beadman (Aus) 7-5, 6-3; A Linkova (Russ) bt G Am (Ger) 1-6, 6-3, 6-2; R Sandu (Rom) bt J Wood 6-3, 6-7, 7-5; S Smith bt J Ward 2-6, 6-6, 6-2; C Taylor bt M Nedelot (Russ) 6-2, 6-1.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £8,814.10; 23 £25.15; 22 £10.70; 21 £2.50. Four draws: £3.50. Ten homes: £7.45. Five aways (paid on three): £38.60.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £3,785.40; 23 £49.80; 22 £8.20. Ten homes: £3.35. Five aways: £7.70.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £1,048.65; 23 £7.60; 22 £1.20. Four draws: £5.00. Eight homes: £1.20. Four aways (paid on three): £16.60. Easy six: £20.00. Goals galore (paid on 129): £5.15. Lucky numbers: 30.33 13 11 25 36.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division (2.0): Charlton v Wimbledon; West Ham v Norwich.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Middlesbrough v Sunderland (at Hartlepool FC, 7.0). Postponed: Blackpool v Coventry.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: First round, third replay: Sudbury Town v Trowbridge.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Whitchurch v B A T.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (2.30 unless stated): FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire (at Ashfield United, 7.15). English Schools Snickers under-19 Trophy: Second round: Ridge Danyers College, Greater Manchester v West Cheshire College, Cheshire (at Stockport Georgians AFC, 2.0). Hertfordshire League: St Albans v North Herts; Watford v Lea Valley; Mid Herts v Dacorum. Inter-county: Essex v Suffolk at Gloucester Bowl (7.15).

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (Wembley).

TENNIS: LTA women's satellite tournament (Sunderland); LTA men's satellite tournament (Bramhall)

THE TIMES
RACING
Commentary
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Customer-care policy paying dividends for royal course

Ascot rewarded with increased crowds

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Ascot racecourse attracted a total attendance of 418,806 in 1995, an increase of more than 15 per cent on the previous year's figures

THE remarkable transformation in the fortunes and public appeal of Ascot was underlined yesterday by crowd figures for 1995, which revealed an increase of more than 15 per cent — compared to an average national rise of less than 1 per cent.

The attendance statistics are the clearest evidence yet of the impact made on racegoers by the new "customer-care" policy, introduced by Douglas Erskine-Crum and Nick Cheyne since they took over the day-to-day responsibility for running the royal racecourse in October 1994.

Without eroding the centuries-old tradition and championship quality racing at Ascot, the dynamic new team has set about removing the outdated stuffiness and needless red tape which was proving a turn-off for spectators. However, even they could not have hoped for such a swift response.

Total attendance in 1995 was 418,806, compared to 363,149 in 1994, which means Ascot attracted nearly 9 per cent of all spectators attending Britain's 59 racecourses.

In 1994, Ascot had one less fixture and lost two days to weather. Even when attendance figures for the equivalent three days last year are removed from calculations, the increase is still 34,742 or 9.6 per cent — nearly ten times the overall national increase.

While the glorious weather, which blessed the four-day royal meeting, contributed to an increased attendance of nearly 20,000, the sun alone would not have brought about the 8,172 rise (21 per cent) on the Friday.

Although final attendance figures for most courses are still being collated by Weatherbys, Haydock's Flat crowds were down by 8.6 per cent, despite staging one extra fixture in 1995. Kempton was down 2.6 per cent from the same number of Flat cards while York suffered a 6 per cent fall. Newmarket, which has benefited from the impact made by Peter Player as chairman, saw numbers swell to 290,241 — an 11 per cent increase — from 32 days racing compared to 31 in 1994.

Erskine-Crum, Ascot's racecourse director, said yesterday: "We have put considerable emphasis in the last 12 months on developing customer relations, improving facilities and making the racecourse accessible and friendly. We have also worked hard to maintain a programme of the highest quality across our 24 race-days.

He added: "We have many new plans for the future, all geared to providing our racegoers with the best possible entertainment, enjoyment, comfort and value for money. Racing has to compete for its market with a growing number of other sports and rival entertainments, so strong marketing and promotion, as well as improved customer-care, have to be a key part of any strategy."

After appearing not so long ago to be still residing in the era of the quill pen, Ascot now has a new computer system which takes care of everything from accounts and marketing data to the ordering, allocating and printing of tickets — and a discount is being made available for the first time on Royal Ascot grandstand tickets bought before Derby Day.

Most of the infuriating "By Order" signs, telling spectators what they must not do, have been removed and the members' enclosure restaurant has been refurbished. A £2 million project, which will be completed in time for this year's royal meeting, will see the longest and largest bar in any British racecourse built in the grandstand area.

Racecourse of the Year would have been unimaginable two years ago. Now it is only a question of when.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MOI CANARD
(2.50 Lingfield Park)
Next best: Meldorf
(3.50 Lingfield Park)

Bargain hunters take early value in National market

BY RICHARD EVANS

VALUE-SEEKING readers of *The Times* were quick off the mark yesterday to take advantage of the generous ante-post prices being offered against Young Hustler, Rough Quest and Deep Bramble in the Martell Grand National.

Both William Hill and Ladbrokes reported plenty of money for Young Hustler, recommended by Robert Wright in his Racing Ahead column yesterday, and were forced to trim Nigel Twiston-Davies's chaser from 20-1 to 16-1 joint-favourite.

Wright also recommended Rough Quest at 33-1 and Coral shortened Terry Casey's stayer to 25-1. The Barking firm also stood out with their offer of 25-1 against Deep Bramble, my long-range tip for the Aintree showpiece, and by the end of business yesterday Paul Nicholls's nine-year-old was 20-1.

Although there was support for Smith's Band, Monsieur Le Cure, Party Politics, Earth Summit and Tartan Tyrant, the trio of horses recommended here yesterday were the only entries to have their prices clipped.

As the big bookmakers look ahead to the biggest betting day of the year, their main concern is the effect of the lottery on turnover. Will the once-a-year punters who have always had a bet on the National remain loyal, or are they hooked on the lottery?

Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, confirmed: "The lottery will have an effect on turnover because the Grand National has traditionally drawn much of its turnover from the once-a-year flutterer who is now gambling every week on the lottery.

"To what degree it is difficult to say and it will depend to a large extent on how the different parties get behind the National to promote it and put it in the forefront of the public's mind. Obviously, we will be doing a lot to make sure that happens and much depends on press coverage."

With the first running of the Dubai World Cup being staged on March 27, some of the newspaper coverage normally devoted to the National in the run-up to the race looks sure to be taken up by the $4 million contest.

Coral's Rob Hartnett believes the lottery helped to reduce Grand National turnover by 10 per cent last year. "People always liked the excitement and slightly risqué nature of having a flutter on the National. Now they have got it every week and the National has lost its place a bit in our hearts."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Andrew Robson has reasonable claims to be considered the best bridge player in the world above the height of 6ft 5in. He had better watch out, though — Wilt Chamberlain, the famed American basketball player of the Sixties, has recently taken up the game. He is 7ft 1in and is known to be useful with his fists. Bob Hamman said: "He ain't very good yet, but who's going to tell him?" Chamberlain's riposte to the tedious "How's the weather up there?" that tall men receive is to spit on the questioner's head and say: "It's raining."

Robson played this hand well at the Macallan Pairs:

Dealer West **East-West vulnerable** **IMP's**

North:
♠3
♥A10864
♦75
♣AK1042

West:
♠QJ1072
♥-
♦1042
♣QJ876

East:
♠K5
♥KQJ932
♦J963
♣5

South:
♠A9864
♥75
♦AKQ8
♣93

W	N	E	S
Pass	1H	Pass	1S
Pass	2C	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Contract: 3 NT **Lead: Queen of Spades**

When you lead into the declarer's suit, it is often correct to lead low from an honour combination. Leading high can produce a blockage.

That would have happened on this hand if East had played low on the queen of spades; in practice, he put in the king. In my view, that was correct — East should have had better spades to lead the queen.

Robson took the queen of spades with the ace, and continued with a low club to the ten. When East showed out on the king of clubs, it was apparent that West had mainly black cards, so Robson cashed his three diamond winners and the ace of hearts (West discarding a spade) and exited with ace and another club. After taking his two club tricks and the jack and ten of spades, West had to give South his ninth trick with the eight of spades.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Polgar leads

After a bad start — she lost the first game — Zsuzsa Polgar, the higher-rated favourite in the women's world championship, has assumed the lead with two easy wins. She leads by 3-2 in her challenge against Xie Jun, of China, the champion. In her first win, Polgar weathered an assault by the champion and finished by trapping her queen. In the second game, Xie Jun mishandled a variation popularised by the Kasparov — Short match of 1993 and was torn apart by White's pair of bishops.

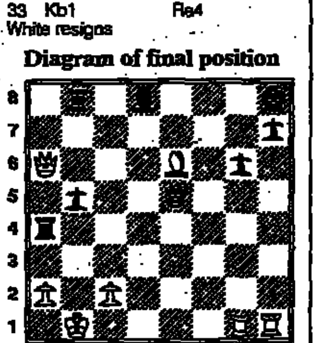
White: Xie Jun
Black: Zsuzsa Polgar
Women's world championship
Fourth game, January 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	Nc6
6	Bg5	Qb6
7	Nb3	e6
8	Qd2	Be7
9	f3	0-0
10	g4	Rd8
11	Be3	Qc7
12	g5	Nd7
13	0-0-0	a6
14	h4	b5
15	h5	Nb6
16	g6	Bf6
17	h6	bxg6
18	hxg7	Na4
19	Nd4	Nxd4
20	Bxd4	Bxd4
21	Qxd4	Nxc3
22	bxc3	Qxg7
23	Qb6	Qe7
24	e5	d5
25	Bd3	Bd7
26	Rdg1	Be8
27	f4	d4
28	cxd4	Rab8
29	Qxa6	Rxd4
30	f5	exf5
31	Bxf5	Qxe5
32	Be6+	Kh8
33	Kb1	Re4

White resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Zsuzsa Polgar
Black: Xie Jun
Women's world championship
Fifth game, January 1996

Scotch Game

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	exd4
4	Nxd4	Bc5
5	Nxc6	Qf6
6	Qd2	dxc6
7	Nc3	Be6
8	Na4	Rd8
9	Bd3	Bd4
10	c3	b5
11	cxd4	bxa4
12	Qc2	Qxd4
13	Qxc6+	Kf8
14	Be2	Ne7
15	Qc2	f5
16	0-0	Qxe4
17	Qxc7	Kf7
18	Bh5+	g6
19	Bf3	Qc4
20	Qxa7	Qd4
21	Qa5	Nd5
22	Rd1	Qc4
23	Bg5	Rd7
24	Rac1	Qxa2
25	Bxd5	Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Ayr offers ray of hope for return of jumping

AYR on Saturday could come to the rescue of action-starved jump racing followers. Mark Kershaw, general manager at the Scottish course, issued an optimistic bulletin after receiving the weekend weather forecast yesterday. "We may be lucky," Kershaw said. "I have just walked the track and, although we couldn't have raced today, it has improved. The forecast is for temperatures between zero and 4C."

Catterick, also due to race on Saturday, is another course with more than a glimmer of hope. "We could not have raced today but tomorrow is expected to be a fine day," a spokeswoman said yesterday. "I should say it's about 50-50."

More immediately, today's meetings at Wincanton and Huntingdon were both called off yesterday morning, as was tomorrow's Bangor card.

Prospects for the Tote Gold Trophy fixture at Newbury tomorrow and Saturday remain bleak while Uttoxeter on Saturday has little chance of surviving. An inspection will be held at noon today.

Whatever Uttoxeter's fate, the £100,000 bonus awarded for wins in the National Trial, the Midlands National and a place in the Martell Grand National, is still on. If Uttoxeter is abandoned, the Eider Chase at Newcastle on February 17 will replace the trial as the first leg of the treble.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	90	210	powder	powder	powder	snow	0	7/2
(Heavy snowfall adding to already good base)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	5	75	good	varied	art	fine	-5	5/2
(Good skiing on open pistes; uncrowded slopes)								
Mayrhofen	5	35	fair	varied	closed	sun	-1	4/2
(Good skiing available; snow machines topping up)								
Obergurgl	40	100	good	varied	good	sun	-12	5/2
(Excellent skiing on powdery snow; sunny skies)								
Söll	15	55	good	varied	closed	sun	-9	5/2
(Good piste skiing in all main areas; low runs worn)								
FRANCE								
Megève	15	90	fair	fair	art	cloud	-4	6/2
(Pistes improving all the time; snow machines in use)								
La Plagne	75	160	good	powder	good	cloud	-5	6/2
(Superb skiing with light, dry powder snow)								
La Tania	65	70	good	powder	closed	fine	-5	6/2
(Excellent skiing on open runs; fresh powder)								
Tignes	95	150	good	powder	good	sun	-10	6/2
(Superb skiing on and off piste; fresh snow)								
SWITZERLAND								
Verbier	70	90	fair	varied	fair	fair	-12	6/2
(Some new snow, pistes continue to improve)								
Villars	10	35	good	varied	closed	fine	0	7/2
(Open pistes in good condition; more snow forecast)								
Zermatt	25	280	good	varied	fair	snow	-3	7/2
(Fresh snow and good skiing; mixed visibility)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

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Trophy not moved

The Tote Gold Trophy will not be rescheduled if, as expected, Saturday's meeting at Newbury falls to the weather. It will be the tenth time in the race's 33-year history that it has been cancelled.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ACRIDIAN
a. An ancient Greek dialect
b. A silver-bearing quartz
c. To do with locusts.

GHOST
a. A Hindu greeting
b. The mind
c. An operatic understudy

DOOLAN
a. A Roman Catholic
b. An embroidery stitch
c. Self-promoting hyperbole

COHO
a. A chum or pal
b. Company headquarters
c. A salmon

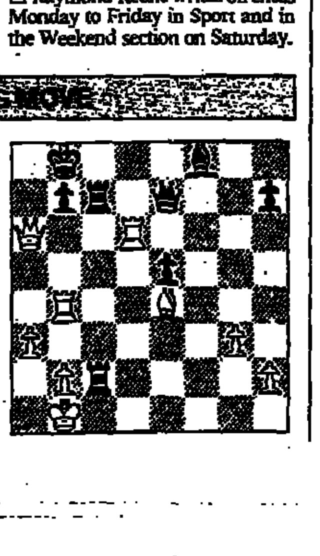
Answers on page 42

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Riemersma — Piket, Dordrecht, 1985. When a position of opposite-coloured bishops exists (ie, one on light squares and one on dark squares), the attacking player often has a great advantage, as his bishop cannot be challenged. This is the case here. How did White capitalise?

Solution, page 42



LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
1.50 Burnt Offering
2.20 Sense Of Priority
2.50 Moi Canard
3.20 TENOR (nap)
3.50 Meldorf
4.20 Almuhtaram

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.50 MELDORF.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.50 BURNT OFFERING (nap). 2.50 Green Gem. 3.50 Meldorf.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.50 BUDDLEIA MAIDEN STAKES (£3,485: 1m 4f) (7 runners)

101	(5)	405/0-64	ROYAL PRINT 14 (Miss J Hatford) W Muir 7-8-13	J-P Lopez	78
102	(6)	0-5	CULTURAL ICON 5J (Mrs P Mitchell) P Mitchell 4-9-10	J Weaver	--
103	(4)	0400-0	DISCORSI 26 (S May) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-10	A Clark	87
104	(2)	4-5	TAMANDU 22J (R Shaw) C James 6-9-6	A McGlone	80
105	(1)	04-	BURNT OFFERING 147 (A Richards) C Brittain 3-8-3	M Larsen	[illegible]
106	(7)	0600-4	MISTER ASPECTO 35 (B,BF) (Aspecto Clothing Co) M Johnston 3-8-3	T Williams	92
107	(3)		SEATTLE SAGA (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 3-8-3	D R McCabe (3)	-

BETTING: 6-4 Seattle Saga, 7-4 Burnt Offering, 9-2 Mister Aspecto, 8-1 Discorsi, 12-1 Royal Print, 14-1 Cultural Icon, 16-1 Tamandu.

1995: POWER 4-8-12 B Doyle (4-1) C Brittain 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

ROYAL PRINT 8½l 4th of 14 to Carols Marc in rated stakes over course and distance (AW). Previously 20l 6th of 17 to Mirnsvala in maiden here (AW, 1m 5f) with DISCORSI (2lb worse off) 1l 7th. CULTURAL ICON 14l 5th of 8 to Your Most Welcome in maiden here (AW, 1m 2f). TAMANDU 13¾l 5th to Tartan Gem in claimer over course and distance (AW). BURNT OFFERING about 7¾l 4th to Danesman in maiden at Yarmouth (1m, good). MISTER ASPECTO 8l 4th to Doctor Bravious in maiden at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd).
Selection: MISTER ASPECTO

2.20 WISTERIA CLAIMING STAKES (£2,612: 7f) (5 runners)

201	(3)	4224-40	SPEEDY CLASSIC 19 (C,F,G) (Stainless DS) M Heaton-Ellis 7-9-3	S Drowne (3)	87
202	(5)	4/150-14	STAR TALENT 7 (CD,BF,G,S) (Miss J Crowley) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-1	A Whelan (3)	96
203	(4)	50-1302	SENSE OF PRIORITY 3 (CD,F,G) (S Schofield) D Nicholls 7-8-11	Alex Greaves	[illegible]
204	(2)	000-0	SCBOO 29 (Mrs P Hutchinson) R Peacock 7-8-9	V Slattery	-
205	(1)	6600-00	JUSTINIANUS 19 (D,G,S) (J Bridger) J Bridger 4-8-7	J Quinn	67

BETTING: 5-4 Star Talent, 7-4 Sense Of Priority, 3-1 Speedy Classic, 25-1 Scboo, 33-1 Justinianus.

1995: SWEET SUPPOSIN 4-9-3 R Cochrane (15-8 fav) K McAuliffe 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPEEDY CLASSIC 5½l 6th of 13 to Milos in claimer here (AW, 6f) with JUSTINIANUS (2lb worse off) 2½l 11th. Previously 2½l 4th of 10 to Pageboy in handicap here (AW, 6f). STAR TALENT about 2½l 4th to Arzio in claimer here (AW, 6f). Previously beat Perilous Plight short-head in seller over course and distance (AW) with JUSTINIANUS (8lb better off) 12l 7th. SENSE OF PRIORITY 4l 2nd to Sea Devil in seller at Southwell (AW, 6f).
Selection: STAR TALENT

2.50 JAPONICA HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,846: 7f) (6 runners)

301	(3)	1425-62	MOI CANARD 2 (C,F,G) (R Gray) B Pearce 9-7	D R McCabe (3)	[illegible]
302	(2)	646-2	GREEN GEM 13 (P Madelein) S Williams 9-4	L Dettori	98
303	(6)	0121-25	DOMOOR 15 (D,BF,G) (The Braintree Pnrs) M Johnston 9-1	J Weaver	98
304	(4)	04006-	HEAVEN SENT 154 (Mrs P Mitchell) P Mitchell 9-1	A Clark	85
305	(5)	00-6	DAUPHIN 19 (Mrs R Brown) W Musson 8-12	P McCabe (3)	90
306	(1)	0605-63	MYSTERY MATTHIAS 16 (B) (M & Mrs J Laycock) Miss B Sanders 8-8	D Biggs	98

BETTING: 7-4 Moi Canard, 5-2 Green Gem, 4-1 Domoor, 6-1 Mystery Matthias, 10-1 Heaven Sent, 14-1 Dauphin.

1995: WATER HAZARD 8-2 S Sanders (4-1) S Dow 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOI CANARD 1½l 2nd of 10 to Robo Magic in handicap here (AW, 6f). GREEN GEM 1l 2nd of 7 to Kingdom Princess in maiden auction at Southwell (AW, 1m). DOMOOR ¾l 2nd of 11 to China Castle in handicap here (AW, 1m 2f) on penultimate start. HEAVEN SENT about 4¾l 6th of 13 to Chemcast in nursery at Folkestone (5f, good to firm). DAUPHIN about 8¾l 6th of 11 to Princely Sound in maiden auction here (AW, 6f). MYSTERY MATTHIAS neck and 2l 3rd of 12 to Miss Carottene in handicap here (AW, 6f).
Selection: GREEN GEM

3.20 PRIMROSE HANDICAP (£2,600: 5f) (10 runners)

401	(10)	113-125	CHEEKY CHAPPY 15 (B,CD,F,G) (Mrs J Chapman) D Chapman 5-10-0	A Culhane	[illegible]
402	(7)	000-000	TENOR 17 (CD,G) (G Thompson) D Nicholls 5-9-13	Alex Greaves	94
403	(3)	02-0206	DISTANT DYNASTY 9 (CD,G,S) (M Kirby) B Pearce 6-9-12	S Sanders	98
404	(8)	33-2233	AWASHA 9 (BF) (H Al-Maktoum) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-9	L Dettori	98
405	(5)	6040-26	THE INSTITUTE BOY 15 (CD,G) (Mrs J Addleshaw) Miss J Craze 6-9-7	J Weaver	94
406	(9)	600350-	ROCKY TWO 64 (B,D,G) (B Bennett) P Howling 5-9-6	R Cochrane	96
407	(6)	00-6606	SUPERLAO 5 (D,F,G) (J Bridger) J Bridger 4-9-3	A Daly (7)	93
408	(1)	065-244	HALBERT 12 (V,D,F) (T Barker) P Burgoyne 7-9-0	D R McCabe (3)	97
409	(2)	06506-0	DAANIERA 36 (V,CD,G,S) (G Mann) P Howling 6-8-12	J Quinn	96
410	(4)	400400-	CEDAR GIRL 177 (F) (Mrs A Sanders) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-11	Amanda Sanders (5)	91

BETTING: 4-1 Awasha, 5-1 Halbert, Tenor, 6-1 Cheeky Chappy, The Institute Boy, 8-1 Daaniera, Distant Dynasty, 10-1 Rocky Two, 20-1 Superlao, 25-1 Cedar Girl.

1995: TENOR 4-9-6 Alex Greaves (14-1) D Nicholls 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHEEKY CHAPPY 5½l 5th of 11 to Chadwell Hall in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f) with THE INSTITUTE BOY 1¾l 6th and DISTANT DYNASTY (2lb better off) ¾l 7th. Previously head 2nd of 13 to Shadow Jury in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f) with TENOR (11lb better off) 11l 8th. DISTANT DYNASTY best recent effort when 1½l 2nd of 8 to Lift Boy in claimer over course and distance (AW) with SUPERLAO (4lb worse off) 2¾l 6th. AWASHA 4½l 3rd of 10 to Dahiyah in handicap here (AW, 6f). ROCKY TWO best recent effort when 1¾l 3rd to Anytime Baby in handicap over course and distance (AW) with DAANIERA (5lb better off) 4½l 5th. HALBERT about 3¾l 4th to Lochon in handicap here (AW, 5f).
Selection: HALBERT

3.50 FORSYTHIA CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,501: 1m) (7 runners)

501	(1)	614-11	BANZHAF 12 (CD,G) (B Pennock) G L Moore 9-7	S Whitworth	95
502	(2)	303-621	BLUE FLYER 7 (CD,G) (Mrs A Cappuccini) R Ingram 9-2	W Woods	81
503	(4)	1	DOUBLE-O-SEVEN 14 (C,G) (R Huggins) M Johnston 9-2	J Weaver	81
504	(5)	10-	MELDORF 119 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 9-2	L Dettori	[illegible]
505	(3)	01-	ACCOUNTANCY JEWEL 55 (C,G) (D Brennan Accnts) K McAuliffe 8-6	J Fortune	93
506	(7)	00105-	HEVER GOLF QUEEN 61 (G) (M Hanson) T Naughton 8-6	T Ashley (7)	–
507	(6)	6313-	LOVELY SMILE 123 (D,S) (R Vanslembrouck) P Smith (Bel) 8-6	D R McCabe (3)	–

BETTING: 4-6 Meldorf, 5-1 Banzhaf, 6-1 Blue Flyer, Double-O-Seven, 10-1 Accountancy Jewel, 12-1 Lovely Smile, 33-1 Hever Golf Queen.

1995: MONTANELLI 9-2 R Cochrane (4-1) K McAuliffe 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

BANZHAF beat Distinct Beauty 1¾l in 4-runner handicap over course and distance (AW). BLUE FLYER beat Lancashire Legend 2½l in 8-runner maiden over course and distance (AW). DOUBLE-O-SEVEN beat Creeking neck in maiden here (AW, 7f). MELDORF beat Hoh Returns 4l in 11-runner maiden at Newcastle (6f, good) on penultimate start. ACCOUNTANCY JEWEL beat Farmost 1l in maiden auction at Lingfield (AW, 7f). HEVER GOLF QUEEN best effort, beat Stemway ½l in 5-runner conditions race at Taby (7f 110yd, good). LOVELY SMILE beat Royal Suite neck in conditions race at Ostende (1m, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: MELDORF

4.20 CLEMATIS HANDICAP (£3,501: 1m 2f) (6 runners)

601	(5)	5006-33	KINTWYN 15 (C,G) (Mrs F Bacon) C C Elsey 6-9-12	D Harrison	96
602	(4)	04-4131	ROBELLION 7 (V,CD,F,G) (G Thompson) D Arbuthnot 5-9-12 (5ex)	R Cochrane	[illegible]
603	(1)	1401-42	ALMUHTARAM 16 (B,CD,F,G) (A Al-Maktum) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-10	A Whelan (3)	98
604	(3)	5005-36	GALLIC VICTORY 12 (F,G) (A Smith) John Berry 5-9-2	M Fenton	93
605	(6)	16006-0	NOBLE NEPTUNE 18 (F) (Mrs R Brown) W Musson 4-8-12	P McCabe (3)	88
606	(2)	0301-30	TOTAL RACH 14 (CD,BF,F,G) (Mrs A Cappuccini) R Ingram 4-8-10	W Woods	98

BETTING: 7-4 Almuhtaram, 2-1 Robellion, 7-2 Kintwyn, 6-1 Total Rach, 14-1 Noble Neptune, 16-1 Gallic Victory

1995: SECRET ALY 5-9-12 M Rimmer (7-2) C Brittain 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

KINTWYN head and 2½l 3rd to Field Of Vision in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f 79yd). ROBELLION beat Zahid 2½l in handicap over course and distance (AW). ALMUHTARAM ¾l 2nd of 14 to King Of Tunes in handicap over course and distance (AW) with NOBLE NEPTUNE (3lb better off) 28¾l 12th. GALLIC VICTORY 7l 3rd of 13 to Tribal Peace (later placed 2nd) in claimer over course and distance (AW) on penultimate start. TOTAL RACH best recent effort, beat Watch Me Go 3½l in handicap over course and distance (AW)
Selection: ALMUHTARAM (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Loder	10	25	40.0	L Dettori	63	242	26.0
D Nicholls	7	29	24.1	J Weaver	61	257	23.7
S Williams	4	18	22.2	Alex Greaves	8	42	19.0
K McAuliffe	9	48	18.8	R Cochrane	47	267	17.6
M Johnston	34	197	17.3	A Culhane	3	17	17.6
P Mitchell	13	76	17.1	S Whitworth	22	132	16.7

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 1.50 Mister Aspecto.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Southwell
Going: standard

2.15 (7f) 1, KINGDOM PRINCESS (L Charnock, 11-2); 2, Myttons Mistake (Iona Wands, 5-2 fav); 3, Baliwick (M Fenton, 9-2) ALSO RAN: 4 Society Girl (4th), 9-2 Honestly (6th), 5 Dhes-C (5th) 6 ran. NR: Oriel Lad. 2½l, 2l, 2½l, 3l, 1¾l. M Camacho at Malton. Tote: £4.90; £2.60, £1.70. DF: £19.60. CSF: £18.16.

2.45 (1m 4f) 1, ROUFONTAINE (J Weaver, 6-5 fav); 2, Haya Ya Kefaah (J Quinn, 15-2); 3, Salmeston (P McCabe, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Taniyar, 7 Moonlight Air (6th), 10 Nick The Biscuit (4th), 14 Ambidextrous (5th), Kalisko, 33 Mister. 9 ran. 4l, ¾l, 7l, 2½l, 15l. W Muir at Lambourn. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £1.90, £3.60. DF: £8.90. Trio: £56.90. CSF: £10.84.

3.15 (1m 4f) 1, MENTALASANYTHIN (Angela Gallimore, 6-1); 2, Beaumont (R Cochrane, 4-6 fav); 3, Backview (T Williams, 33-1) ALSO RAN: 4 Toy Princess (5th), 12 Analogue, 14 Cross Talk (4th), Hillzah (6th). 7 ran. NR: Make A Note. 8l, 3l, 5l, 8l, 6l. A Bailey at Tarporley. Tote: £9.20; £1.40, £1.70. DF: £5.00. CSF: £10.57. Tricast: £116.67.

3.45 (1m) 1, SARASI (L Charnock, 5-1); 2, Queen Of All Birds (J Weaver, 9-4 fav); 3, Manabar (N Carlisle, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Komreyev Dancer (5th), 7 Erlion, Singing Reply (6th), 8 Bardon Hill Boy (4th), 12 Eversel. 8 ran. NR: Ansal Boy, Little Ibnr. 1l, 1¾l, 8l, ¾l, 5l. M Camacho at Malton. Tote: £7.50; £1.10, £1.60, £4.40. DF: £7.40. Trio: £96.20. CSF: £16.93. Tricast: £148.42.

4.15 (5f) 1, BOFFY (Iona Wands, 10-11 fav); 2, Victoria Sioux (J Quinn, 9-1); 3, General Equation (J Edmunds, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 2 Born A Lady (6th), 12 Impington (4th), 20 Supreme Illusion, 33 Shoot The Minstrel (5th). 7 ran. NR: Marino Street. ¾l, 2¼l, shd, 2½l, 2½l. B Baugh at Little Haywood. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £4.20. DF: £5.80. CSF: £9.51.

4.45 (5f) 1, KIRA (R Lappin, 3-1); 2, Featherstone Lane (J Weaver, 7-2); 3, Tafahhus (M Fenton, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Primula Bairn (5th), 11-2 King Rambo (4th), 10 Kalar (6th), 33 First Option. 7 ran. NR: Bonny Melody. ¾l, 4l, 1¾l, ½l, 2½l. J Eyre at Thirsk. Tote: £3.30; £1.10, £3.30. DF: £8.70. CSF: £13.19. Tricast: £81.82.

Jackpot: £6,800.50.
Placepot: £29.00. Quadpot: £5.60.

Williamson back

Norman Williamson returns at Clonmel today if the Irish course survives a 7am inspection. Williamson, who broke his leg at Sedgefield in October, hopes to prove his fitness for the ride on Master Oats in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown on Sunday by partnering Lucky Bust in the maiden hurdle.

هكذا في الاصل

1932 Olympic silver medal-winner looks back on pay day of memories

Flagbearer for golden age of sport

The secret of time travel in sport is not to take a time machine, but to hitch a lift instead with one of those original chariots of fire. They are hard to find these days, but, at the weekend, one of the last living players from a vanished and golden age of British athletics transported a small group of sportsmen back through time.

Jerry Cornes was a lean and elegant Oxford graduate of 22 when he stepped onto the Olympic rostrum 64 years ago in Los Angeles. He had just run the race of his life to carry off the silver medal in the 1,500 metres. Today, an Olympic performance like that could set him up with sponsorship, agents and rich rewards. However, as Cornes — 85 and still fit enough to hold a room spellbound — remembers, sport and the world were very different in Los Angeles in 1932.

BRYANT'S EYE

A 12-day journey from Southampton, first by boat, the *Empress of Britain*, then by train, took the Great Britain team to a Los Angeles that was determined to put on a show despite the depression. The Americans feared that the Games would be a flop because it was so far to travel, but, to the visitors, the welcome seemed fabulous. They built an Olympic stadium to hold 104,000 which was so good that they used it for the next Games in Los Angeles, 52 years later. The track was the fastest that most had ever run on. There was the first purpose-built Olympic village; and, with a touch of Hollywood, there was even the first appearance of the "Olympic flame".

Olympic sportsmanship, too, burnt with a brightness that might seem quaint to some of the competitors of today. In the 400 metres hurdles, for instance, Lord Burghley, of Britain, and Morgan Taylor, of the United States, were reckoned to be the best in the world. Taylor had been given the task of carrying the American flag at the opening parade — a tiring job in the Californian sunshine. So, in order not to gain an unfair advantage, Burghley carried the British flag at the same time. Both lost in the race to Bob Tisdall, an Irishman.

Cornes warms up for the Olympics with a victory over Lovelock in the AAA championships in July 1932

To Cornes, who is Britain's last living individual track medal-winner from 1932, it was all great fun. He was off to serve in the Colonial Service in Nigeria and, because he had won a place in the Britain team, he was allowed to travel there via California.

On August 4, 1932, he finished second in the 1,500 metres final to Luigi Beccali, the fast-kicking Italian, who ran 3min 51.2sec — an Olympic record. Beccali covered the last 300 metres in around 41sec, a killing pace in those days. Cornes ran 3min 52.6sec — the fastest by a British athlete to that time. Jack Lovelock, his friend from New Zealand (who was to win gold four years later), trailed in seventh.

Cornes had prepared himself for this performance on training that would be considered inadequate for a schoolboy athlete today. "I ran only twice a week through the summer," he said. "Absurd compared with what they do nowadays."

The Games over, Cornes set out for Nigeria, where his arrival coincided with the staging of an annual "round the wall" event, a cross-country race between two gates of the ancient city of Katsina. Cornes ran, but was outkicked by a local — perhaps the first time, but certainly not the last, that a British champion was to be beaten by an unknown African.

In 1936, Cornes was back in the Olympic team and, in the 1,500 metres, in Berlin, he sacrificed his own chances to set the pace for Lovelock, who won the gold in world record time. Cornes himself, in sixth place, ran a full second faster than in Los Angeles.

That was virtually his last track race, but the old chariot of fire kept rolling. As late as 1949, he was turning out in the Southern Counties cross-country championship, trailing in 20 minutes behind the winner, to make up the team for Thames Hare and Hounds, his club.

> 'He still reckons he might have won if he hadn't been watching the Finns'

In 1984, he returned to Los Angeles to be reunited with Beccali. At the weekend, he turned out for his club again — to share his memories and to meet up with Wendy Sly, a fellow club member and another Los Angeles Olympic silver medal-winner (in the Zola Budd/Mary Slaney 3,000 metres in 1984).

Flickering newsreel footage transported him back to an August afternoon in 1932, and a simpler age ... an age when winning a medal brought you not a big pay day, but memories enough to enrich you for a lifetime. Sixty-four years on, Cornes still runs the race in his head, and he still reckons that he might have won if he had not been so busy watching the Finns.

"The middle distances were the British events and, as the first string, it was up to me to win," he said. "At Oxford, we were keen to beat Cambridge, and then together in the Achilles Club we would try to take on the world." The film shows what Cornes has always believed, that he hung back too much in the middle of the race. "I was very disappointed not to win the gold," he said. "At the finish, I was hardly tired."

JOHN BRYANT

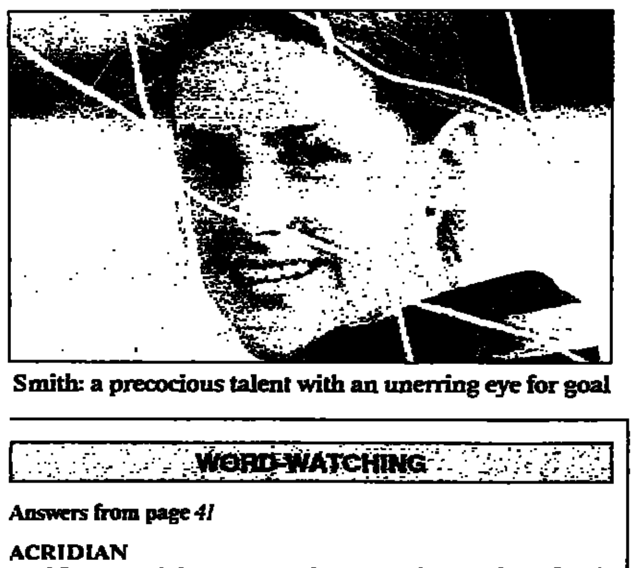
Smith sets out to join Gascoigne and Giggs

Sarah Forde meets a teenager touted as the future of England women's football

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN BEDDALL

When the England women's football team takes the field against Portugal in Lisbon on Sunday, English eyes are likely to turn to one player — Kelly Smith, who is fast earning a reputation as the female Paul Gascoigne. Part of that comparison has been built on her considerable talents on the field, and part on her unconventional attitude off it — she has a soft spot for junk food, although "not before a game", and recently she had her nose pierced.

The excitement began at Roker Park last November when Smith, making her debut for England against Italy three days after her seventeenth birthday, produced a moment of magic. In the eighth minute, she controlled the ball with a deft touch and played an intuitive one-two with Marianne Spacey before setting off down the wing. Her pace took her past Frederica D'Astolfo and a feint saw off Manuela Tesse. The Italy pair, with 71 caps between them, stood mesmerised.



Smith: a precocious talent with an unerring eye for goal

It was the first of many a raid down the left and Tesse will have had nightmares about Smith, her tormentor that night.

Smith capped a remarkable performance in her second international, against Croatia, with her first goal for England, a penalty in the last minute. Andreja Rogar, the Croatia defender, tired of being left in her wake, pulled her down and, as Gillian Coulthard, the most capped England player, prepared to take the kick, Ted Copeland, the England manager told Smith to take it "as a reward". Up she stepped and, left footed, coolly placed the ball low to the goalkeeper's right.

Copeland described Smith as "exceptional" against Italy and "outstanding" against Croatia. So what is it that makes the girl from Garston, near Watford, so special?

Her confidence and composure on the pitch is extraordinary, but her life away from football could not be more ordinary. She lives with her parents, is studying for a diploma in sports science at West Herts College, enjoys going out with friends and likes dance and chart music.

Smith is an Arsenal supporter and her bedroom is a shrine to Ian Wright, whom she admires because of "his enthusiasm and appetite for the game and determination to win."

Glen, 14, her brother, plays for his local team but will always live in her shadow. "She's the natural, he has to work a lot harder," Bernard, her father, one of the three wise men who have nurtured her undoubted talent, said.

Smith and the England squad train for the international with Portugal on Sunday

Norman Burns, the manager at Pinner Park, her first club, and John Jones, her manager at Wembley, make up the trio who have coveted their outstanding player thus far. Jones, passionately vocal about women's football, has played a steadying role in the development of the mild-mannered teenager. He is excited by her ability, but cautious of her rapid ascent.

"Every so often, someone comes along in a sport who has natural ability and, at a very early stage, you say, 'That's going to be an England player'," he said. "You recognise them. With Kelly, we are encouraging and enhancing her strength, teaching her what the game is about so she can be a match-winner for 90 minutes at the top level."

Smith knows that she has plenty to learn, but her meek demeanour does not fully mask her self-belief. On comparisons with Gascoigne, she said: "I'm not as strong as him but I have the same skill. I'm more like Ryan Giggs. I like to run at players." An accurate self portrait, although some would say that she is a better crosser of the ball than Giggs was at 17.

Smith has no hesitation in naming her best goal, scored for Wembley Reserves against Arsenal Reserves; a goal that "did the Arsenal", who were previously unbeaten.

Jones described the moment with misty-eyed admiration: "Kelly broke down the left, hit the ball from 30 yards out into the top corner. People pay loads of money to see that. It was a goal of the season — a classic. That made it 3-2 and the whistle went not long after."

Kelly Smith has always been a match-winner. On Sunday, she will make her third appearance in an England shirt, against Portugal in Beneventi. She is an exciting talent with the potential to become great. Only time will tell.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *41*

ACRIDIAN

(c) Of or pertaining to an orthopterous insect of the family *Acridiidae*, comprising certain locusts and grasshoppers, but not all of them.

GHOST

(b) Philosophical jargon, from *the ghost in the machine*, Gilbert Ryle's name for the mind viewed as separate from the body in *Dilemmas* and other works. Ryle, *Concept of Mind*, 1949: "The dogma of the Ghost in the machine maintains that there exist both bodies and minds; that there are mechanical causes of corporeal movements and mental causes of corporeal movements."

DOOLAN

(a) A Roman Catholic, in particular an Irish Roman Catholic, taken to be the most stupid and bigoted of that sect, New Zealand slang, an eponym from the Irish surname *Doolan*.

COHO

(c) A species of salmon, *Onchorhynchus kisutch*, found in the northern Pacific waters; the silver salmon. Etymology of unknown origin. 1859, *The British Colonist* [spelling inchoate]: "Lastly, there is the genus known by the Indian name of coucoose, a hybrid bastard sort of fish, half trout, half salmon."

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Justice back in the dock

Cause célèbre. *Radio 4, 9.30am.*

Kevin Callan was sentenced to life for murdering his partner's four-year-old daughter. She had suffered a brain haemorrhage and choked to death. He spent four years behind bars. Books that he obtained from the prison library opened his eyes to the nature of neuro-pathology in general and head injuries in particular. What drove him to fight to prove his innocence was the knowledge that, at his trial, the only medical evidence came from the prosecution. He appealed against his sentence. His conviction was quashed. Jenni Mills leads Kevin Callan back through an ordeal that is still festooned with a myriad of questions. They must be answered if others are going to be spared his fate.

Evening Concert. *Classic FM, 8.00pm.*

The London Mozart Players' concert tonight includes a work that knocks on the head and kicks in the shins the belief that happy music can come only from happy composers. I am talking about Schubert's Octet in F major, a work brimming with optimism, and almost as cheerful as his *Trout* piano quintet. You would think that, when he wrote the octet, Schubert did not have a care in the world. The truth is much grimmer. He was seriously ill, deeply depressed. "Each night, when I go to sleep," he wrote to a friend, "I hope I shall not wake again." Admittedly, in the octet's finale, a couple of dark clouds obscure the sun's face ... but not for long.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **7.00** Evening Session, with Steve Lamacq, featuring China Drum in session **9.00** Collins and Maconie's Hit Parade **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Claire Sturgess, incl **12.15am** The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** For Better or for Worse **7.30** David Allen **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Latino Nuevo (6/6) **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl **6.55, 7.55** Racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Gut Reaction **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck with Katie Derham **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale's Nationwide, incl **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Cricket's World Cup: 1992 (part two). The infamous rain rule **8.05** Women on Top **9.05** SportsAmerica **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** Night Moves with Austin Lafferty **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: *Herodotus — The Histories* **7.30** Network UK **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer of the Month **8.45** Good Books **9.00** News in German **9.15** Sport **9.45** Sports **10.00** News **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf: *Herodotus — The Histories* **11.00** News **11.30** World Banking **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: X-Press **3.00** News in German **3.15** Learning World **3.30** Network UK **4.00** News **4.15** World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.00** News **6.30** News in German **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** News **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Network UK **11.45** Health Matters **Midnight** News **12.30am** On the Move **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Surviving the 20th Century **1.45** Global Concerns **2.00** News **2.30** Drama: *The Vacillations of Poppy Carew* **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Faith **4.00** News **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Travel Guide **8.00** Evening Concert. See Choice **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, including Schubert (Symphony No 2 in B flat); Delius (Paris, The Song of a Great City); **7.05** attrib Monteverdi (Confitebor tibi, domine); Tchaikovsky (String Quartet No 1 in D, Op 11); Grainger (Colonial Song); Debussy (Rhapsody for alto saxophone and orchestra)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, including Johann Strauss, son (Wine, Women and Song); Liszt (Le Mal du pays, Années de pèlerinage); Victor Herbert (Cello Concerto No 2); Beethoven (Sonata in E flat)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Ciconia (Gloria suscipe trinitas); Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No 5); **10.22** *Artist of the Week*: Nancy Argenta, soprano; Strauss (Four songs); **10.32** Dvořák (Symphony No 8 in G); Reicha (Variations); Sor (Two minuets); Mozart (Concert Rondo in D, K386); Martin (Ballade)

12.00 Composers of the Week: Les Six, including Auric (Marie Laurencin; Poulenc (Le Bestiaire); Le Six (Les Mariés de la tour Eiffel)

1.00pm City of London Sinfonia under Andrew Watkinson, violin, with Paul Silverthorne, viola. Vaughan Williams (Concerto for violin and string orchestra in D minor); Robin Orr (Rhapsody for string orchestra); John Woolrich (Ulysses Awakes for viola and string ensemble); Britten (Simple Symphony) (r)

2.00 Schools. Radio Showcase **2.05** In the News **2.25** Something to Think About

2.40 Music Workshop

3.00 The Road to Toledo. The musical journey of Philip the Fair from Brussels to Toledo (4/4)

3.30 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Jun'ichi Hirokami, with Boris Belkin, violin. Tchaikovsky (Francesca da Rimini); Glazunov (Violin Concerto in A minor); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D)

5.00 The Music Machine. The Albion Ensemble play compositions by young composers

5.15 In Tune

6.55 Live from Covent Garden: The Midsummer Marriage by Michael Tippett. Introduced by Natalie Wheen. Performed by Stephen O'Mara, tenor, Cheryl Barker, soprano, John Tomlinson, bass, Lillian Watson, soprano, Christopher Ventris, tenor, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo, the Royal Opera Chorus and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House under Bernard Haitink; **8.05** Interval: Natalie Wheen talks to Michael Tippett and Graham Vick; **8.25** Act 2; **9.05** History Now and Then: Witches with Roy Porter; **9.35** Act 3

10.45 Night Waves. Sir Ernest Hall speaks *In Defence of Genius* at the Arts Council of England lecture

11.30-12.30am Ulster Orchestra under Sachio Fujioka. Othmar Schoeck (Serenade for small orchestra); Bruckner (Symphony No 1 in C minor, Linz version)

1.00-2.00 Night School. Together Stories **1.30** Music for Dance

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Waite (r)

9.30 Cause célèbre. See Choice

10.00-10.30 News; First Men in the Moon (FM only). The last episode of a four-part adaptation by Joe Dunlop of the novel by H.G. Wells. With James Bolam, Donald Sinden, Gary Olsen, Chris Pavlo and Anthony Jackson

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only). A history of Britain

10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: *Cause Celeb* by Helen Fielding (1/12)

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm To Boldly Go. Kevin Day chairs the last of four sci-fi quizzes **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Ananda Sananda by Tanika Gupta. With Roshan Seth, Shaheen Khan, Josephine Welcome, Bhasker and Rehan Sheikh

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope reviews David Storey's *The Changing Room* at the Royal Court in London

4.45 Short Story: You by Alasdair Gray. Read by Simon Cadell (r)

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.56** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 People Like Us by John Morton. The first of a six-part comedy series (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Mangala's Story. Charlotte Bloefeld reports on 28-year-old Mangala Sharma whose home is a refugee camp in Eastern Nepal (r)

8.00 Analysis: Dirt across the Border. Frances Cairncross asks whether some countries can force others not to pollute the environment

8.45 Aesthete's Foot. The Scottish humorist John McKay reminisces about his adolescence (5/6)

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: God Stand Up for Bastards. David Leitch reads his autobiography (4/8)

11.00 Thirty Minute Theatre: Much Like Yourself by Anne Heshmi. With Charlotte Coleman and Frances Tomelty (r)

11.30-12.00 Postcard from Gotham (FM only) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)

12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Reef by Romesh Gunesekera. Read by Shiv Grewal (4/7)

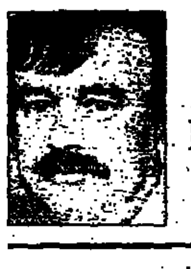
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. F 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Televisio and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Max Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

[illegible]

Only a woman has the measure of a man

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Men everywhere, it was that sort of night. Hollywood men, acting up, Whitehall men, ditto and Marina Warner on men among other things. So the choice, in terms of starting points, is between filmic frivolity, dark tales from the Scott Inquiry and Warner's intellectual analysis.

The least shall be first. **Hollywood Men** (ITV) was the last in the series and concluded with a frightening caption which said: Coming soon, *Hollywood Pets*. I can hardly wait but will try.

This episode was called *The High Life* but that only arose out of the need to give it a title. In reality (though that word is ill-chosen), sundry Hollywood men talked about anything that came into their heads. What kept me going was the list of subtitles. A man would appear on the screen and start to talk. A few seconds later his name would appear and under his name there would be a description of his role in life.

Judging by appearances, which is the only way to judge this kind of programme, the names were pretty much interchangeable. The descriptions, though, were pure gems. They included: "Millionaire romance icon" and "Ex-drug dealer to the stars" and "Writer's block therapist" and "Professional friend". I assume these job descriptions are designed to brighten the day of bored customs officers checking passports at LA International.

Such oddities only help to underline the point of Hollywood, which is its risibility, its knack of being gloriously fatuous. After all, the films are not often much good, certainly they are rarely half as much fun as programmes such as this one.

I think it was the millionaire romance icon — there's an ambition for a lottery winner — who put Hollywood in perspective once and for all by saying: "You see a man in a Jaguar convertible with a luscious blonde at his side. You think he must be somebody. The chances are he is some actor's jeweller."

The difficulty with such nonsense is that it creates a Hollywood so false that when truly awful things happen they become just another anecdote. Robert Evans, the producer of *The Godfather*, stayed away from drugs for most of his career but then he was dragged in to a cocaine bust in New York because his name came up as one of the alleged customers for the drugs.

For Evans the result was humiliation and disgrace. So much so that when his son graduated from college, the boy could not even find a girl willing to be his date for the graduation ball. Hollywood, a mobile society fuelled by gasoline and cocaine in equal measures, summons hypocrisy in even fuller measure to wreak ultimate revenge.

Meanwhile in Whitehall, drama of a very English kind unfolds. Next Thursday the Scott Report on arms to Iraq will be published but those whom it may or may not impugn are getting their retaliation in first. **Dispatches** (Channel 4) talked to Sir Richard Scott and to several of his detractors.

Lord Howe, the detractor-in-chief, reiterated his line that the inquiry was structurally unsound but denied absolutely that there was an organised campaign against Scott. Not at all. There was, however, "a series of recurrent outbursts of anxiety", as perfect an example of Whitehall-speak as one might encounter outside *Yes, Minister*.

Lord Howe has been put forward as what Hollywood would surely call the professional friend of the Government vis à vis Scott, but this does not necessarily mean that Howe is wrong. But the public will surely make a judgment next Thursday on the content of the report, as expressed in dramatic headlines. And if the Government rejects the report, the public will judge that the Government is shooting the messenger.

This may be "unfair", in Lord Howe's word, but several people pointed out in *Dispatches* that it was John Major who appointed Scott (the man who, as Lord Justice Scott, had demonstrated his independence by rejecting the Thatcher Government's attempt to suppress *Spycatcher*). And it was Major who appears not to have told Scott how he should conduct the inquiry. As ye sew, so shall ye reap.

Perhaps the real problem, in Whitehall as in Hollywood, is all these damned men running things. Marina Warner said of men in a stimulating interview for **The Big Idea** (BBC2) that "their access to a range of opportunities in their lives was being narrowed by the constant emphasis that the only way to be a powerful figure was through the elimination of antagonists".

This is a thought she aired during the Reith Lectures last year and it was based on observing young men in a video arcade, where most of the games involved conflict. Now Warner is starting to worry about a related, larger threat, which is the fear of intelligence.

She cites *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Seven*, the new film about a serial killer, in both of which the monster is a person of considerable intelligence. Of course, these are merely modern examples of the "mad scientist" and the link suggests that men are not much altered.

New man? Warner is sceptical, citing "poor levels of involvement in the family . . . the pressure on young men not to be seen to be domesticated or tame".

Interesting that of three programmes under review, two factual and one a philosophical discourse, the last had moments when it was more enlightening about the underlying forces at work in Hollywood and Whitehall than either of the others.

BBC1

.00am **Business Breakfast** (74682)

.00 **BBC Breakfast News** (Ceefax) (70363)

.00 **Breakfast News Extra** (Ceefax) (4170311) **9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (3268446) **9.45 Kilroy** (s) (1499430)

.30 **Good Morning** (s) (62779)

.00 **News** (Ceefax) and weather (6055427)

.05pm **Turnabout** (s) (9506595)

.30 **Going for a Song** (s) (93021)

.00 **One O'Clock News** (Ceefax) and weather (20840) **1.30 Regional News** and weather (77639392)

1.40 **Neighbours** (Ceefax) (s) (34424779) **2.00 Pebble Mill** (s) (9795330)

2.40 **Snooker — the Masters** from Wembley Conference Centre (s) (5418682)

3.50 **Dinobabies** (s) (5090934) **4.10 Highlander** (Ceefax) (s) (6911427) **4.35 The Really Wild Show** (Ceefax) (s) (8864804) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (4748507) **5.10 Grange Hill** (Ceefax) (s) (1723866)

5.35 **Neighbours** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (525408)

6.00 **Six O'Clock News** (Ceefax) and weather (663)

6.30 **Regional News Magazines** (243) **N.I.: 6.30** Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (r) (s)

7.00 **Top of the Pops** (Ceefax) (s) (4359)

7.30 **EastEnders**. Pat lays down the law with Frank (Ceefax) (s) (427)

8.00 **The Vet: Stormy Weather**. In the last of the series, a violent storm brings terror to Stonegates Farm and a cat gives Murray the run-around (Ceefax) (s) (851953)

8.50 **Animal Hospital Heroes**. Highlights from past visits to the Harmsworth Hospital in London (Ceefax) (s) (810576)

9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3224)

9.30 **French and Saunders**. Includes a *Star Trek* interpretation of the O.J. Simpson trial (Ceefax) (s) (13885)

10.00 **Flying Doctors — A 999 Special**. The work of the London Helicopter Emergency Medical Service. (Ceefax) (s) (904311) **N.I.: 10.00** Spotlight **10.30** 999 International Rescue **11.20** Question Time **12.20am** Hunger for Faith **12.40-2.10** FILM: Let's Spend the Night Together **WALES: 10.00** The Slate **10.30** 999 International Rescue **11.20** Question Time **12.20am** Hunger for Faith **12.40-2.20** FILM: Laguna Heat

10.50 **Question Time**. The panel is the MPs Peter Lilley and Tessa Jowell, the author and broadcaster Mavis Nicholson and Rodney Klevan, QC (Ceefax) (894595)

11.50 **Hunger for Faith: The Women's Room**. Rana Kabbani meets four Muslim women who use their faith to help them to establish their independent identities (Ceefax) (s) (655663)

12.10 **FILM: Laguna Heat** (1987) starring Harry Hamlin, Jason Robards and Catherine Hicks. A detective takes a well-earned rest after the death of his partner only to find himself embroiled in a murder investigation involving an old friend. Directed by Simon Langton (253489)

1.50-1.55am **Weather** (6488847)

5.40-6.00 **Hunger for Faith: The Women's Room** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8241373)

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BBC2

6.00am **Open University**: Databases (2078069) **6.25** Computing (2057576) **6.50** Beating the Morning Rush (5175330)

7.15 **See Hear Breakfast News** (Ceefax) (8499798) **7.30 Stingray** (r) (Ceefax) (26446) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7387773) **8.25 Tales of the Tooth Fairies** (4603408) **8.30 Puppydog Tales** (1392682)

8.40 **The Record** (s) (8246791)

9.05 **Daytime on Two**: Seeing Through Science (s) (3245595) **9.30** Lernexpress (9127999) **9.45** Over the Moon (s) (8672804) **10.00** Playdays (s) (5522576) **10.25** Storytime (s) (8572224) **10.45** Science Zone (s) (7417595) **11.05** Space Ark (s) (3654595) **11.15** Healthe 3 (s) (3394175) **11.35** Landmarks (Ceefax) (s) (6221798). **N.I.: 11.35** Ulster In Focus **12.00** Christianity (s) (6293885) **12.15pm** Clementine (s) (6714798) **12.30 Working Lunch** (91663) **1.00** Lifeschool (s) (84767866) **1.25** Technology (s) (37612205) **1.40** Numbertime (s) (34415021)

2.00 **Tales of the Tooth Fairies** (r) (10015427) **2.05 Puppydog Tales** (r) (10014798)

2.10 **The Andrew Neil Show** (s) (9247088)

3.00 **News** (Ceefax) and weather (2055953) **3.05 Westminster** (Ceefax) (4852576) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) (1046311)

4.00 **Snooker — the Masters**. The first quarter final (s) (1408)

6.00 **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine** (Ceefax) (s) (983885)

6.45 **They Who Dare**. The sports of hydrospeed and canyoning (s) (510359)

7.00 **Waiting for God** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5601)

7.30 **First Sight: Fair Game** (999). **N.I.: 7.30** Now You're Talking (162021) **7.55** Our Roving Reporter (983601) **WALES: 7.30** Dad's Army **EAST: 7.30** Matter of Fact **MIDLANDS: 7.30** Midlands Report **NORTH, NORTH EAST, NORTH WEST: 7.30** Close Up North **SOUTH: 7.30** Southern Eye **SOUTH WEST, WEST: 7.30** Close-Up

Derek Hatton, complex man (8.00pm)

8.00 **My Brilliant Career: Derek Hatton — a Very Different Man** (Ceefax) (s) (1021)

8.30 **Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld** visits the United Arab Emirates. Last in the series (6476)

9.00 **Traces of Guilt** (Ceefax) (s) (373953)

9.50 **Potted Histories**. Epiphytes. Last in series (Ceefax) (s) (689663)

10.00 **Game On**. Sit-com (r) (Ceefax) (s). Followed by **Talking Cézanne** (64021)

10.30 **Newsnight** (Ceefax) (699137)

11.15 **Snooker — the Masters**. The second quarter final (s) (563408) **11.55 Weather** **12.00 The Midnight Hour** (s) (51606)

12.30am-6.00 **The Learning Zone**

CHOICE

My Brilliant Career: Derek Hatton — A Very Different Man

BBC2, 8.00pm

For a former stalwart of Militant, Derek Hatton has become a spectacular convert to the market economy. Or so it would seem when you learn that he runs a public relations company, has his own television show and commands £1,000 a night as an after-dinner speaker. Half an hour is hardly enough to do justice to the story of the fireman's son who became a pillar of his church before finding a niche in Trotskyite politics. Even now the rights and wrongs of his stewardship of Liverpool City Council are hard to untangle. His motives may have been fine, to bring decent housing to slum areas. But declaring war on Margaret Thatcher, and, for that matter, Neil Kinnock, was perhaps not the best way to proceed. He remains a complex and contradictory figure.

Seasiders

Channel 4, 9.00pm

It is high season at Primrose Valley, the Haven company's holiday centre on the Yorkshire coast, and 3,000 people are waiting to be entertained. For the Havenmates, with their striped blazers and permanent smiles, it is going to be a test of endurance as well as the ability to hold an audience. Not all holidaymakers are guaranteed to behave themselves. The visiting cabaret star Tom O'Connor offers tips to the rookie entertainers. Not surprisingly, they want to know how to deal with hecklers. We meet a family from Keighley who have been coming to Primrose Valley for nine years and whose nine-year-old offspring fancies himself as Freddie Mercury in the children's talent contest. This is a series of observation, rather than revelation, but it offers an honest insight into British popular culture.

Thief Takers: Whispers in the Dark

ITV, 9.00pm

Not for the first time in this series, the guest star outshines the regular cast. Richard Graham is one of those actors whose face is better known that his name and the face is unmistakable. Graham's speciality is villains. When the Armed Robbery Squad hits on a suspect for a security van job, and he is played by Graham, you know the police have got the right man. The question, therefore, is not whodunnit but whether he will get away with it. The parallel plot is a peep into the home life of detective Helen Ash (Lynda Steadman), who is trying to juggle a job which means lots of night work with the demands of a husband (Glyn Grimstead) and small children. The theme is no more original that the rest of the show, which is standard cops-and-robbers fare, even though it is delivered with pace.

Traces of Guilt: The Drug Detectives

BBC2, 9.00pm

An Asian arrives at Heathrow airport with an apparently innocent suitcase. But forensic tests reveal that his clothes are impregnated with cocaine with a street value of £800,000. Science has triumphed again. In charting its role in the war against drugs, the film visits the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and highlights its role in unmasking what became known as the French connection. But science has not been used only against dealers and pushers. In 1986 President Reagan launched a campaign for a "drug-free America", aimed at both the Armed Forces and the civilian workplace. The screening of staff, and job applicants, has become commonplace and the practice has spread to Britain. But Bryan Finkle, a forensic toxicologist, is worried about the invasion of privacy.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am **GMTV** (2555040)

9.25 **Win, Lose or Draw** Quiz (s) (3243137)

9.55 **Regional News** (Teletext) (5532953)

10.00 **The Time . . . the Place** (s) (1783972)

10.35 **This Morning** (15841779)

12.20pm **Regional News** (Teletext) (6044311)

12.30 **News** and weather (Teletext) (3395446)

12.55 **Shortland Street** (s) (8023088)

1.20 **Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (84763040)

1.50 **Home and Away** (Teletext) (58930361)

2.20 **Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (57920682)

2.50 **Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (3732224)

3.20 **News** headlines (Teletext) (2062243)

3.25 **Regional News** (Teletext) (2061514)

3.30 **The Riddlers** (1451088) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (3469798) **3.50 Rupert** (7912798) **4.20 Mike and Angelo** (s) (6902779) **4.45 Reboot II** (Teletext) (s) (4169296)

5.10 **A Country Practice** (s) (8486682)

5.40 **News** and weather (Teletext) (691589)

6.00 **Home and Away**. Steven refuses to believe Dodge is dead (r) (Teletext) (173682)

6.25 **HTV News** (Teletext) (772866)

7.00 **Emmerdale**. Emotions run high when Frank finally confronts Kim and Dave (Teletext) (s) (9427)

7.30 **Survival: The Death and Life of Lake Hula**. The marshes in Israel are a haven for spectacular wildlife (Teletext) (s) (595)

8.00 **The Bill: Cold Light of Day**. A brutal assault on a teenager is unsolved, then a reconstruction brings forward an unexpected witness (Teletext) (8175)

8.30 **Blues and Twos: Hotel 900**. The local police helicopter unit in Sussex is called in to airlift an injured motorcyclist from the scene of a Bank Holiday road accident (Teletext) (s) (7682)

Steadman and Grimstead (9.00pm)

9.00 **Thief Takers: Whispers in the Dark** with Reece Dinsdale, Glyn Grimstead and Lynda Steadman (Teletext) (s) (5791)

10.00 **News at Ten**, weather (Teletext) (91175)

10.30 **Regional News** (Teletext) (807779)

10.40 **FILM: The Face of Fear** (1990), starring Pam Dawber, Lee Hosley and Kevin Conroy. A mountain climber uses his psychic powers to help police to track down a serial killer. Directed by Farhad Mann (Teletext) (s) (42500601)

12.30 **Not Fade Away** (s) (82248)

1.30 **Shift** (61101)

2.30 **The Crime Hour** (r) (8943373)

3.25 **Marquee Anniversary: Alexis Korner and Friends**. A tribute to one of Europe's premier rock venures (r) (s) (4890118)

4.20 **The Time . . . the Place** (r) (s) (1779064)

5.00 **The New Mr & Mrs Show** (r) (54880)

5.30 **Morning News** (89489)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm-7.00 **Wales Tonight** (772866)

7.30-8.00 **Wales This Week** (595)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 **My Story** (6052330)

12.55 **Emmerdale** (3370137)

1.25 **Chain Letters** (84762311)

1.55-2.25 **Home and Away** (92396972)

2.25 **Vanessa** (57929953)

2.55-3.20 **A Country Practice** (8570250)

5.10-5.40 **Home and Away** (8486682)

6.00-7.00 **Westcountry Live** (33868)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 **Home and Away** (3370137)

1.25 **Chain Letters** (84762311)

1.55 **A Country Practice** (34421682)

2.20 **Vanessa** (57920682)

2.50-3.20 **High Road** (3732224)

5.10-5.40 **Shortland Street** (8486682)

6.25-7.00 **Central News and Weather** (772866)

10.40 **Film: Kojak — None So Blind** (1989) starring Telly Savalas, Andre Braugher and Rip Torn. The New York policeman invesigates the execution-style shooting of an accountant working for a department store's building contractors (42500601)

12.30am **Live from the Lilydrome**. Among the guests are Carter USM, Hue and Cry, Mud and the comedians Simon Bligh and John Maloney (1975170)

2.25 **Shift** (2944422)

3.20 **The Crime Hour** (4891847)

4.15 **Jobfinder** (3522915)

5.20 **Asian Eye** (1289354)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 **Chain Letters** (3370137)

1.25 **Home and Away** (84762311)

2.20 **Vanessa** (57920682)

2.50-3.20 **Child's Eye**. Fred Dinenage joins young children who talk about, among other topics, their grandparents (3732224)

5.10 **Home and Away** (8486682)

6.00 **Meridian Tonight** (359)

6.30-7.00 **Getaways**. Includes Anne Gregg exploring Killarney (311)

5.00am **Freescreen** (54880)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Think Tank (5156205) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (98663) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (78224) **9.30 Middle English** (1822327) **9.45 Place and People** (2082972) **10.05 Scientific Eye** (8556412) **10.25 Geographical Eye** (8567392) **10.45 Quest** (9905717) **11.00 History in Action** (97934) **12.00 House to House** (98088) **12.30pm Hullabelloo** (26359) **1.00 Slot Meithrin: Slot Syniadau Sali** (91750) **1.30 Film: The Out of Towners** (39035156) **3.15 Ricki Lake: It's Easy to Get Any Guy I Want** (3621601) **4.00 Backdate** (224) **4.30 Travelog** (408) **5.00 5 Pump Uned 5** (7205) **5.30 Countdown** (208) **6.00 Newyddion** (537866) **6.15 Heno** (414330) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (201359) **7.25 Pwy Di Pwy?** (905316) **8.00 Y Ferch Drws Nesa** (6717) **8.30 Newyddion** (5224) **9.00 A55** (8663) **10.00 Annie's Bar** (99717) **10.30 Film: The Stepford Wives** (72835682) **12.35am Dispatches** (5733444)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am **Think Tank** (r) (Teletext) (s) (5156205)

7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (98663)

9.00 **Fifteen to One** (78224)

9.30 **Schools** Middle English (1822327) **9.45** Place and People (2082972) **10.05** Scientific Eye (8556412) **10.25** Geographical Eye Over Britain (9985953) **10.45** Quest (9905717) **11.00** History in Action. Hypotheticals (3391088) **11.20** Ri Ra (7137408) **11.40** The German Programme (2763779)

12.00 **House to House** (98088)

12.30pm **Sesame Street** (23601) **1.30 Hullaballoo** (r) (s). Followed by **Chigley** (r) (18330)

2.00 **Fantasy on London** (38375330)

2.15 **FILM: In Old Chicago** (1938, b/w) starring Tyrone Power, Don Ameche and Alice Faye. Historical drama about the adventures of members of the O'Leary family in Chicago. Directed by Henry King (Teletext) (541750)

4.00 **Backdate** (Teletext) (s) (224) **4.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (408) **5.00 Ricki Lake** (Teletext) (s) (8415359) **5.45 Terrytoons** (348446)

6.00 **Home Improvement**. American comedy series about the host of a DIY television show (Teletext) (s) (601)

6.30 **Moviewatch** (s) (r) (953)

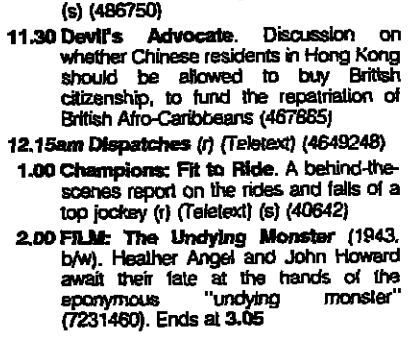
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) (174595)

7.50 **The Slot**. A viewer's opinion (960750)

8.00 **The Pulse**. Shahnaz Pakravan surfs the Internet in search of advice on ways to commit suicide (Teletext) (s) (6717)

8.30 **A Taste of the Caribbean**. In the last of a six-part series, Dorinda Haffner visits Jamaica (s) (5224)

9.00 **Seasiders** (Teletext) (s) (6934)



Dominic Taylor as Dashwood (9.30pm)

9.30 **Annie's Bar**. New MP Dashwood prepares for his first appearance on television (Teletext) (83345)

10.00 **NYPD Blue: One Big Happy Family**. A suspected serial rapist tries to murder past victims who might be able to identify him (Teletext) (s) (653175)

10.55 **Whose Line Is It Anyway?** (r) (Teletext) (s) (486750)

11.30 **Devil's Advocate**. Discussion on whether Chinese residents in Hong Kong should be allowed to buy British citizenship, to fund the repatriation of British Afro-Caribbeans (467885)

12.15am **Dispatches** (r) (Teletext) (4649248)

1.00 **Champions: Fit to Ride**. A behind-the-scenes report on the rides and falls of a top jockey (r) (Teletext) (s) (40642)

2.00 **FILM: The Undying Monster** (1943, b/w). Heather Angel and John Howard await their fate at the hands of the eponymous "undying monster" (7231460). Ends at 3.05

SATELLITE

■ For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

[illegible]

SKY NEWS

News on the hour. [illegible]

SKY MOVIES

[illegible]

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm **Love Me Tender** (1956) [illegible] 6.45 **Elephant Walk** (1954)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

[illegible]

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am. [illegible]

EUROSPORT

[illegible]

SKY SPORTS

[illegible]

SKY SPORTS 2

[illegible]

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

[illegible]

SKY SOAP

[illegible]

SKY TRAVEL

[illegible]

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

[illegible]

The Titfield Thunderbolt steams into action (Bravo, 4.00pm)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

[illegible]

TLC

[illegible]

UK GOLD

[illegible]

UK LIVING

[illegible]

[illegible]

TCC

[illegible]

NICKELODEON

[illegible]

DISCOVERY

[illegible]

BRAVO

[illegible]

PARAMOUNT

[illegible]

FAMILY CHANNEL

[illegible]

MTV

[illegible]

VH-1

[illegible]

CMT EUROPE

[illegible]

ZEE TV

[illegible]

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below. [illegible]

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Richard Tuckers Music Gala

BBC WORLD

News on the hour. [illegible]

هكذا في الأصل

RUGBY LEAGUE 39
THREE-YEAR DEAL LURES HANLEY TO SYDNEY TIGERS

SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

RACING 41
ASCOT BENEFIT FROM A CHANGE OF FORTUNES

England may need replacement

Smith injured in World Cup warm-up match

By Simon Wilde

ROBIN SMITH, the most prolific limited-overs run-scorer in the England World Cup party, may be out of the competition after damaging a groin muscle during his team's first formal practice match, in Lahore yesterday. Smith sustained the injury while holding a brilliant catch in the closing stages of England's 62-run victory over a Lahore City XI at Aitcheson College.

Groin strains are notoriously difficult to assess, and there was uncertainty yesterday as to how long Smith might be incapacitated. "We should know more in a day or two," Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, said, "but, if the muscle has really gone, then it's a three-week job and Robin would be out of the competition."

Smith was ordered to rest in his hotel room last night while having ice-pack treatment. "I feel very depressed at the moment; I'm very, very low," he said. "I've been told I should be reasonably patient because, at best, it's going to take a short while. That's just devastating for me."

Even if Smith makes a quick recovery, the chance of him playing in England's opening group match, against New Zealand in Ahmedabad next Wednesday, appears small. A serious pull would almost certainly lead to him being replaced, probably either by Mark Ramprakash or Nasser Hussain.

Ramprakash is one of two players — the other is Angus Fraser, a bowler — on standby for the tournament. On the England tour of South Africa, he again failed to fulfil his promise, although he looked less vulnerable in the one-day matches. Hussain is also match-ready, having been a member of the recent England A tour of Pakistan. Indeed, in view of the enterprising and mature way that he led that side, his stock may now be higher than Ramprakash's.

The England party was uncertain yesterday about the competition rules relating to replacements for injured players, but it is thought that, as long as the request is a reasonable one — as would seem to be the case in this instance — the organisers would have no objection.

Smith, who is regarded as one of England's weaker fielders, was perhaps guilty of trying too hard yesterday. To complete his catch, he sprinted 20 yards and then dived full length at deep mid-wicket to grasp a skyer hoisted by Manzoor Elahi, the former Pakistan Test player.

"I felt it as I dived and that's when I must have pulled the muscle," Smith said. "At this stage, it feels very stiff and very sore. Hopefully, there will be a quick improvement, but, at the moment, it doesn't feel any easier than when I did it."

If Smith, 32, is out of the World Cup, it would be a doubly cruel blow because he missed the climax of the 1992 competition after slipping a disc.

"This World Cup is going to be my last one and it means everything to me," he said. "From the vibes I was getting from the management during the tour of South Africa, I felt I was quite lucky to be here.

"I wanted to prove people wrong and show everyone I was still good enough to play and do a very good job. For this to happen at an early stage is a major blow. It is a five-week tournament, but I need to keep playing and practising as much as possible to find my form and keep in rhythm."

Despite Smith's excellent record in one-day matches, he was not assured of a place in England's strongest one-day team. Earlier in the day, he had done nothing to change that view by getting out to his first ball. He was caught off an attempted cut against Ali Asad, a teenage fast bowler.

Smith featured in a typical England middle-order collapse; four wickets fell for 19 runs to leave them 86 for five. It started with Hick's dismissal for 38, Thorpe was also out for nought and Fairbrother scored only five. Earlier, Atherton, the England captain, was also out for five.

The damage was repaired by Stewart, who scored 65, and Russell, 60, in a partnership of 72, and Craig White later hit out effectively with 37 off 38 balls to take England to 247 for eight in their 50 overs.

England had little difficulty defending such a total. Cork claimed two early wickets and White three in an opening spell of four overs as the local team slumped to 63 for six.

Elahi and Mohammad Hussain added 90 in rapid fashion before Smith intervened with his costly catch to give White a fourth wicket. It set the seal on the match and possibly on Smith's World Cup.

SCORES: England XI 248 for 8 (50 overs, A J Stewart 65, R C Russell 60; Ali Asad 5-38); Lahore City 181 (44 4 overs, C White 4-19)

Letters 19

Smith crumpled in agony after damaging a muscle in his groin when diving to take a catch during England's warm-up match in Lahore

Australia will not compensate Sri Lanka

By Simon Wilde

GRAHAM HALBISH, the chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board, said yesterday that the World Cup organisers would not receive a cent should they seek compensation from Australia for refusing to play a match in Sri Lanka because of fears for their players' safety.

He dismissed as "kite flying" reports that the Sri Lankan board was looking at the financial obligations of defaulting teams. Sri Lanka are scheduled to play Australia in Colombo on February 17. The West Indies, who have also sought a change of venue after the recent car bomb killed 80 people in the capital, are due to play their qualifying pool match in the same city on February 26.

Halbish said that he believed that the cancellation losses may be covered by insurance. "We would not entertain in any way any approach by either Sri Lanka or Pilcom [the organising committee] on that matter," he said.

Bob Simpson, the Australia coach, said that his players, who are preparing for the tournament in Brisbane, had not been distracted by accusations of cowardice in English and Sri Lankan newspapers for their decision.

A meeting will be held in Calcutta on Saturday between Pilcom, the International Cricket Council (ICC) and representatives of the four visiting countries scheduled to play matches in Sri Lanka to attempt to resolve the dispute over venues. The meeting will be chaired by Sir Clyde Walcott, the ICC chairman, but it may be no more than an informal discussion and there was no sign yesterday of any of the parties softening their stances.

Kenya and Zimbabwe have said that they will fulfil their fixtures on the island, although Peter Chingoka, the president of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, said yesterday that his country will not make a final decision until after the meeting on Saturday. The opening ceremony of the World Cup is the next day.

David Shepherd, the England representative on the 12-strong National Grid panel of umpires for the competition, modelled a new-look black coat at a wintry Lord's yesterday before flying out to join the festivities in Calcutta. Black was chosen as the best neutral colour for day-night matches.

Steve Dunne, the New Zealand umpire, meanwhile was considering withdrawing from two World Cup matches in Sri Lanka in which he is due to stand. "Before Australia and the West Indies withdrew, I was prepared to take the advice of the organisers, but clearly there are serious security concerns and I've had second thoughts," he said yesterday. "I have to say that I'm now very reluctant to go to Sri Lanka."

Shepherd: models the new look

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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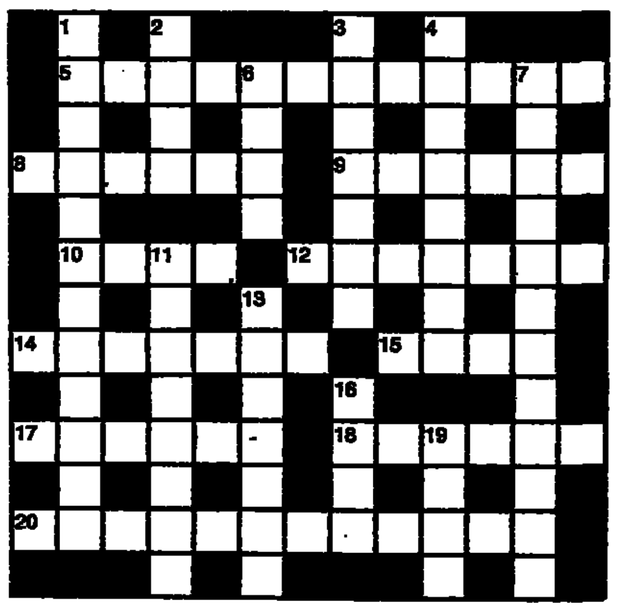

ACROSS
5 City attractiveness (6,6)
8 Accent; strain (6)
9 Mediaeval freeman (6)
10 Make well: French priest (4)
12 Outshine (7)
14 Greek resinated wine (7)
15 Unit of computer storage (4)
17 Dishonoured (woman); dead (hero) (6)
18 Hole (eg in tooth) (6)
20 Execution order (5,7)

DOWN
1 Obstruction-negotiating contest (8,4)
2 Swamp, bog (4)
3 Pretend; behave exaggeratedly (4-3)
4 Dishonour, humiliation (8)
6 Call derisively; background noise (4)
7 Cross-dresser (12)
11 "Be bloody, bold, and —" (*Macbeth*) (8)
13 Not famous, not recognised (7)
16 Blemish; bare rock (4)
19 Small (medicine) bottle (4)

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DOWN: 1 Hop it 2 Recalcitrant 3 Doom 4 Not bad 5 Big stick 6 Poor relation 7 Streak 12 Vendetta 13 Dreamt 15 Ack-ack 18 Pithy 19 Whip

Top clubs reject Super League

By John Goodbody

UEFA and Europe's leading football clubs yesterday agreed to allow the Continent's eight leading nations an automatic second entry into an expanded European Cup but ruled out any move towards a super league.

The unprecedented meeting between the European governing body and clubs, including Arsenal, Manchester United, Bayern Munich, AC Milan and Real Madrid, accepted that, from next season, the European Cup should be expanded to 32 clubs.

The European governing body, which has been under pressure to extend international competition among leading clubs, will work out details of the plan, in which countries such as England, Italy, Germany and Spain would have a second club in the annual tournament. If a club in one of these countries also held the trophy, then the nation would have three entries for the next season.

Lennart Johannson, the Uefa president, proposed that the 32 teams in the European Cup would play each other in a preliminary knock-out competition each season to determine the 16 who would take part in the Champions' League. The 16 losers would go into the Uefa Cup.

The holders of the trophy and the champions of the 23 best-ranked nations would be entered in the original 32 entries, along with eight more from selected countries granted a second entry.

Frits Ahlstrom, the Uefa media director, said that the formula to decide which clubs should take part had yet to be finalised. However, it would probably be based on their European record over the previous ten years and possibly also on their league placings in that period.

Franz Beckenbauer, who was representing Bayern Munich, said: "I would like to make the Champions' League more attractive with more of the big traditional clubs having more possibilities to join in." However, he added that they should finish no lower than fifth in their domestic league and his view was supported by other delegates.

Ahlstrom said: "There seemed to be no general backing for a super league and even the big clubs recognised that European competition should run alongside domestic leagues."

Maurice Watkins, a director and legal adviser of Manchester United, said that the idea of a super league was something that we "skirted round. Thoughts about that have been speculative."

Uefa's detailed plan will probably be finalised at its executive committee meeting next month.

The delegates were still to discuss the implications of the Bosman ruling. This took a further turn yesterday when the European Commission in Brussels said that players from countries outside the European Union (EU), such as Poland, Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria, may have to be treated identically to EU citizens.

Barbara Nolan, the commission's spokeswoman, said: "We do not yet have a definitive legal view, but it appears that players from these countries may have a case for inclusion in the scope of the ruling. It may take a new court decision to be sure."

In December, the European Court of Justice ruled that it was illegal to restrict the number of EU nationals playing in club teams. However, association agreements signed between the EU and countries such as Morocco or Poland frequently include a non-discrimination clause covering their citizens working legally within the EU.

Diary 18
Asprilla move cleared ... 40
Happy as Harry 40

RFU calls time on wasted minutes

David Hands reports on a stopwatch experiment to give spectators more value

OVER the years, since southern-hemisphere referees have been officiating in rugby union's five nations' championship, spectators have become accustomed to an upraised hand after a prolonged stoppage in play. The gesture, meaningless in Great Britain, has become an automatic signal to the match timekeeper that the clock should resume.

As from this Saturday — assuming that the weather does not cause further fixture chaos — the same practice will begin in first-division matches in England. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is to experiment with independent timekeepers for the remainder of this season in the belief that it will increase playing time and therefore offer greater value for money to the crowd.

Rugby's laws state that the referee shall keep the time, but, in the southern hemisphere, it was realised long ago that it is one duty of which the match official could reasonably be relieved. Part of the climax at important club or representative occasions in, for example, Australia is the crowd counting down the seconds on a ground where the clock is visible.

Each first-division club in the Courage Clubs Championship has been sent a klaxon and stop watch and asked to provide a location at the side of the pitch where the timekeeper — an off-duty RFU assessor — will sit. He will take account of injury stoppages, starting the clock to coincide with the recommencement of play.

He will also take account of goal kicks that take more than than 40 seconds, though that is covered in the laws anyway.

At the same time, the timekeeper will have a second watch, that will keep "running time" — that is, the actual time from the start of each half to full time — so that the results of the experiment can be more accurately analysed.

The first match where the timekeeper can operate will be at Sudbury on Saturday, where Wasps play Sale in the only scheduled first-division encounter.

Scots unchanged, page 39

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هكذا ابن الأصل

Life mimics art in town of Cézanne's birth

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Cézanne's *Still Life with Onions* hangs in Paris

"HE IS not in," announced the aged caretaker who answered the door of Cézanne's atelier, the studio high above Aix-en-Provence where some of the artist's greatest paintings were produced.

For a long moment it was unclear whether "he" referred to the painter, who died in 1906, or to the museum curator. Perhaps she did not know herself, for the Aixois have a slightly unsettling habit of referring to Cézanne in the present tense.

The exhibition of Paul Cézanne's works opening at the Tate Gallery today is the most comprehensive assembled, confirming Matisse's assessment of the painter as the father of modern art.

A restless and troubled man, Cézanne was often on the move, artistically and geographically, but it is in Aix, and among the vivid colours and contours of the surrounding countryside, that his art still lives.

Cézanne is embedded in the streets of Aix in the form of a trail of brass plaques nailed to the pavement every six feet, leading tourists from the artist's birthplace to his school and the house where he died.

The most evocative of these sights is the Atelier de Lauves, built in 1901. Its curator — who turned out to be a young, enthusiastic North African, far removed from the reclusive, irascible Cézanne — opened the door to a scene, heavy with the scent of drying herbs, which is itself a still life: an arranged profusion of easels and brushes, letters and canvases, books and half-finished sketches. Here you find a fragment of the carpet used as background for a Cézanne still life, a visiting card, a tie stuffed in a drawer.

Designed by Cézanne to catch the maximum amount of light, one wall of the atelier is almost entirely window, next to a narrow trapdoor, 20ft high, which enabled the artist to slide his largest canvases out of the building. The workshop looks down over Aix and towards the Arc river, where Cézanne swam with his childhood friend, Emile Zola, and which became the setting for *Les Grandes Baigneuses*. To the north rises the silhouette of the great Mont Sainte-Victoire, the subject of so many of Cézanne's works, already changing shape and shade in the morning mist.

If Aix provides one view of Cézanne — the classically educated son of a well-to-do family — then the "Sights of Cézanne" tour of the surrounding area, laid on by the local tourist authority, tells a complementary story of an artist indebted to the spectacular qualities of his native land. "I spend every day in this landscape, with its beautiful shapes. Indeed, I cannot imagine a more pleasant way or place to pass my time," Cézanne wrote to his son in 1906.

Cézanne's house in Aix-en-Provence with its atelier where he painted many of his works

Jas de Bouffan, the manor house on the outskirts of Aix bought by his father in 1859, was often painted by Cézanne while providing the privacy he craved. The building has been bought by the local authority and will eventually become a museum. Nearby is the vast, imposing Château Noir, which Cézanne tried without success to buy.

With a cinema, hotel, restaurant and garage all named after him in Aix, one might get the impression that the artist has himself long been a part of the local landscape but, while the inhabitants of Aix may now talk about him with familiarity and pride, the relationship between Cézanne and his home town was ambivalent, to say the least.

The drama of the countryside and its changing hues were stimulating, but the weather was dreadful, he insisted, alternating between extremes of warmth and cold. The townsfolk were much the same. Many in Aix considered Cézanne *pére*, a milliner turned banker, to be a parvenu. Zola was wrong when he dubbed Cézanne a failure after their relationship soured, but he was not alone in that view. The head of the Grandet Museum, where Cézanne first studied art, flatly refused to hang any of his paintings and it was not until 1921, when both were dead, that the museum acquired its first Cézanne.

Zola never realised his mistake, but Aix did. Hence, perhaps, the homage to its most celebrated son.

The huge British interest in Provence is sure to redouble in the wake of the Tate exhibition. The artist would have been surprised and flattered by that, but still more astonished to find that Aix-en-Provence, a place which both inspired and rejected him, has now become *toujours* Cézanne.

Alan Coren, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Letters, page 19
Arts, page 33

German TV in uproar over fake news films

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN television, once regarded as the most staid and narcoleptic in Europe, is in uproar.

The country's most adventurous maker of documentaries has been exposed as a fraud: twenty-two of his scoops were staged with the help of disguised neighbours and friends. Talk show hosts, desperate for new faces, have been falling for confidence tricksters. And another filmmaker has been accused of fabricating drunken scenes among students at a language school in Eastbourne.

Private television channels are engaged in a fierce ratings war with the public channels and have discovered that there is a big audience for snappy news features. Since Germany has not had much snappy news over the past 50 years, there is considerable pressure on television journalists.

Enter Michael Born. The bearded 37-year-old journalist, now under arrest, suddenly emerged as a key supplier of sensational footage to private film companies such as Stern-TV. The company, associated with *Stern* magazine, supplies private channels like SAT 1 and VOX.

Born was the first to expose the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Germany, his camera secretly hidden in closed Klan sessions. But the klansmen were in fact friends of the producer dressed in sheets. Another exposé: German hunters slaughtering innocent cats. But the cats killed in grisly close-up were from an animal refuge and had been shot by another of Born's friends.

The trick was repeated in many variations. Sad, exploited child labourers making carpets for the Ikea furniture chain turned out to have been hired by the producer. Drug smugglers, filmed crossing the German-Swiss frontier, turned out yet again to be friendly actors. Born, a plump almost Rabelaisian figure, has been a freelance filmmaker for more than six years. "We have known him for a long time," Günter Jauch, the Stern-TV chief, said. "He has given us several pieces which were perfectly all right and he was well regarded by big, highly respected networks. That is why we trusted him."

The fraud came to light when the police started to investigate some of the claims made in the films, with a view to capturing the klansmen and drug traffickers.

Born admits most of the frauds and his lawyer puts the blame squarely on the new German television culture. "There is an unbearable pressure to dramatise television reports," he said.

The problems are not confined to Born. Another documentary-maker for Stern-TV filmed students at an Eastbourne language school apparently enjoying wild parties. The introduction should have made the controllers suspicious: "Smoking pot, dancing, huge quantities of alcohol and sex. Those are the kinds of excesses that are attracting kids to Eastbourne."

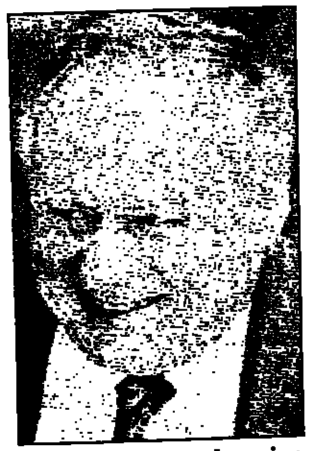
The organiser of the language tours, Jürgen Matthes, is taking legal action against the television company, claiming that the students were in fact English and Norwegian, not German.

The most controversial segment of the film was shot in a discothèque unconnected with the school. The criticism, however, is disputed by Herr Jauch and a court ruling is expected next week.

Herr Jauch says: "Despite all the controls, it will always be the case that people try to cheat each other, even in journalism. There is no such thing as 100 per cent security in this matter."

Bonn opposition puts monetary union in firing line

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN



Lafontaine: tone changing under new party leader

GERMANY'S opposition Social Democrats took the first step yesterday towards making an important election issue out of European monetary union by challenging Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to revise the Maastricht treaty and include a new chapter on job creation.

Regional elections are to be held in three federal states next month and they will be the first test of the political volatility of the single-currency issue. The Social Democrat leadership has censored some posters on EMU, but the Baden-Württemberg party has approved a poster saying: "Stability and jobs have priority. So — postpone EMU!"

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, the party's Shadow Minister for Europe, attacked the Chancellor yesterday for what she called unforgivable inactivity. She made clear that introducing an employment chapter was the main goal of the opposition, that the party wanted a delay in introducing a single currency — and favoured a resolutely federal and "social" Europe. Many observers feared the Social Democrats, who had announced their intention to make EMU the key election issue in 1998, were appealing to the worries of Germans about losing the mark.

But under Oskar Lafontaine, the party's new leader, and Frau Wieczorek-Zeul the tone has changed. The party supports the Government's insistence on meeting the strict criteria for EMU entry. But it also insists on a comprehensive job-creation scheme.

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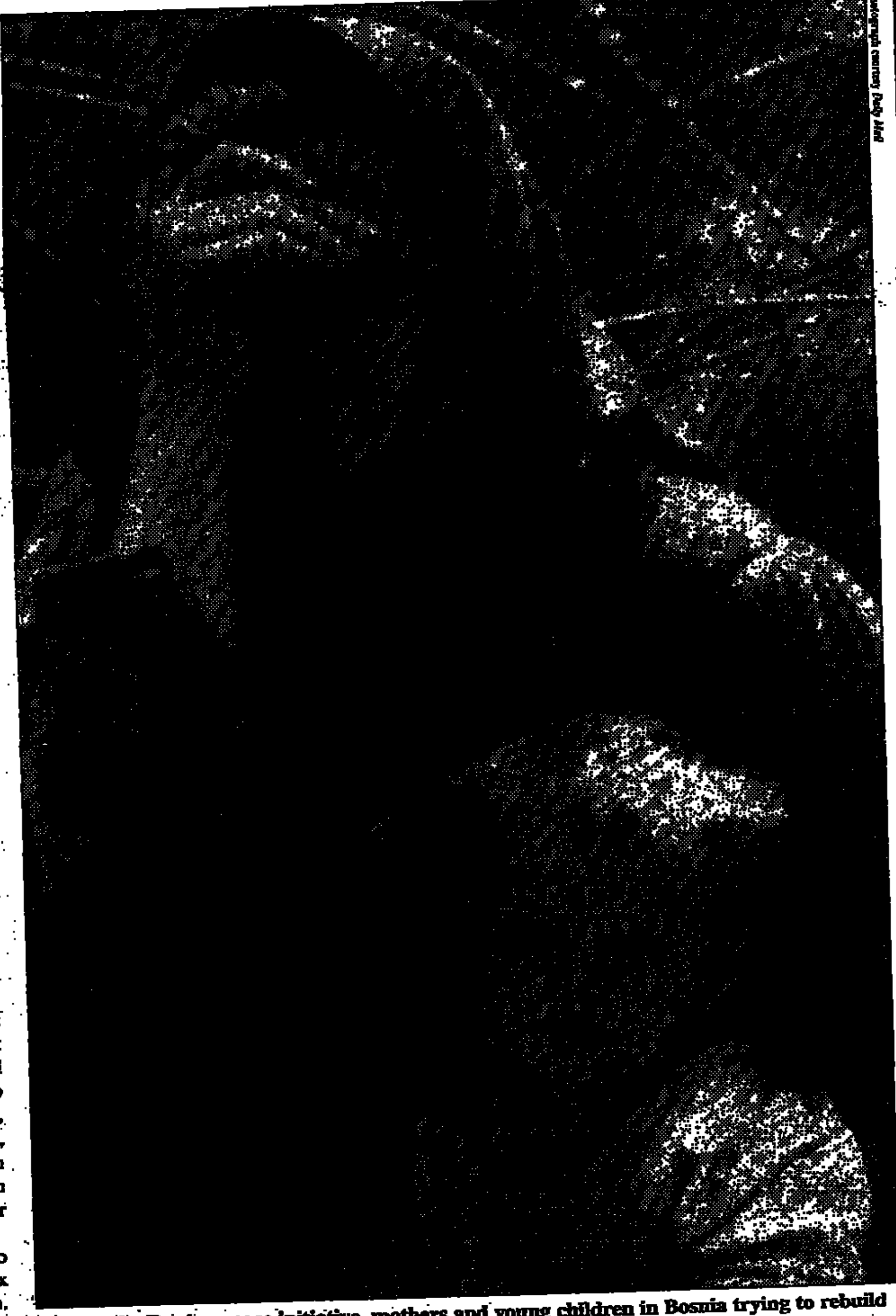
APPEAL FOR THE CHILDREN OF BOSNIA

Could you send a better gift this winter?

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials – not the first things to spring to mind when you think about sending someone a gift. But for mothers in Bosnia who have almost nothing left with which to care for their children, these basic essentials mean the world. And they can be found in each baby box sent with a donation from Britain to a despairing mother in Bosnia, via British charity Feed the Children.



Photograph courtesy Daily Mail

Despite the Dayton peace initiative, mothers and young children in Bosnia trying to rebuild their lives need even the most basic essentials to succeed.

As peace in Bosnia is trumpeted in the corridors of power, a young mother sheltering in a tractor cabin in north-west Bosnia knows what the really important issue is tonight: how to keep her shivering and vulnerable toddler safe from disease and infection in appalling conditions and biting cold.

She has been living on the edge of life since October, when she was forced to flee her home in Velika Kladusa – with only five minutes to pack a carrier bag – and huddle with 22,000 other people along five kilometres of road in Klupjensko valley.

She is one of 14,000 mothers in Bosnia and Croatia who have received baby boxes full of the basic essentials they need to help protect their children from the filthy conditions in which they are surviving: clean nappies and baby cream to soothe burning nappy rash, soap to wash urine-soaked babygros and dirty nappies, antiseptic for cuts, disinfectant for the muddy floors of their shelters...

Photograph courtesy Daily Mail

Children in Bosnia and Croatia have suffered enough. You can help them recover.

From me to you and your child

Inside each box, packed by volunteers at Feed the Children's aid supply centre in Reading, is a message from the person who made it possible. For the exhausted, often traumatised woman who receives it, it is a potent sign that somewhere, somebody is thinking of her, and her efforts to protect her child.

"It's like a voice breaking through the isolation and hopelessness surrounding these mothers and children, saying 'we know how hard it is for you, we care what happens to you,'" explains Gaynor Jones, Volunteer Co-ordinator at Feed the Children. "They take it very personally."

> "I wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box."

So do the individuals who take up Feed the Children's invitation to send a message along with their £30 donation. "Seeing those mothers in Bosnia on the television, clinging to their children for dear life in appalling conditions, I wanted to do more than send a donation," says Karin Weatherup, who has sent a baby box. "I wanted to send a message. I wanted to say to the mother opening the box, 'You're doing an amazing job, and my family think about you every night'. Feed the Children enabled me to do that, for which I'm very grateful."

Julie Griffin was drawn to the idea of sending a baby box to Bosnia for the same reason. "I just wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box. It was that personal involvement which really appealed to me."

A message from you this winter would mean so much to a Bosnian mother.

Does peace in Bosnia make a difference?

In many areas of Bosnia, peace simply means that the shooting has stopped. But the problem is that whole communities have been chased from their homes, and are either too afraid to return or will find only a scorched patch of earth or bombed-out shell where their home used to be.

"There are many truly lost people," says Stewart Crocker, Deputy Director at Feed the Children. "We must ensure they are not forgotten amidst the news of the Dayton peace initiative. Their needs are tremendous, especially those of the mothers and young children. They are trying to move forward, trying to rebuild their lives.

"People in Britain can take one major worry from these mothers by giving them what they need to care for their little ones – a Feed the Children baby box."

▶▶▶

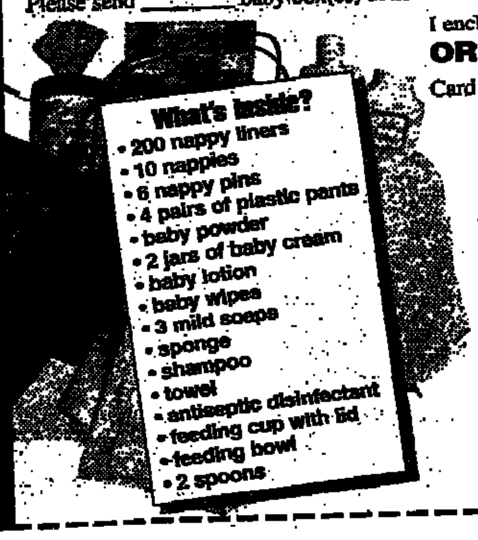
SENT WITH LOVE FROM A FRIEND

It costs £30 to send a baby box to a Bosnian mother and baby. If you would like to send one – or more – please call 0990 600610 or complete and return the coupon below.

If you would also like to send a message to a Bosnian mother, please enclose it with your donation and Feed the Children will put it inside your baby box.

Call **0990 600610** now to tell us how many baby boxes you would like to send. **OR** please complete and return this form.

Please send ________ baby box(es) at £30 each on my behalf.



What's inside?
- 200 nappy liners
- 10 nappies
- 6 nappy pins
- 4 pairs of plastic pants
- baby powder
- 2 jars of baby cream
- baby lotion
- baby wipes
- 3 mild soaps
- sponge
- shampoo
- towel
- antiseptic disinfectant
- feeding cup with lid
- feeding bowl
- 2 spoons

I enclose a cheque for £ ________ (total amount) made payable to Feed the Children.

OR Please debit £ ________ from my ☐ Visa ☐ Access ☐ Switch

Card number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Last three digits of Switch card no. ☐☐☐ Switch issue no. ☐☐

433D

Expiry date ____/____

Signature ________

Name (caps) ________

Address ________

____

Postcode ________ Telephone ________

If you would like to send a message to a Bosnian mother, please send it with your donation and we will put it in your baby box. **Please send to:**
Feed the Children, Dept. 433D,
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TAKING THE AID DIRECT
Registered charity no. 803236.

هكذا فن الاحمل

Mystery Boeing crash off Dominican Republic leaves Germany in mourning

189 killed as tourist jet plunges into Caribbean

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

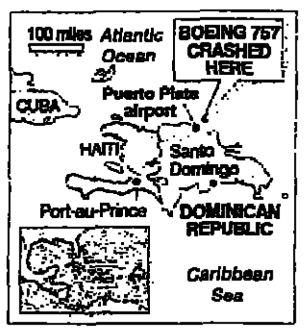
INVESTIGATORS were last night working on the theory that a crashed Boeing 757 airliner suffered an electrical or engine failure before plunging into the Caribbean, killing the 189 people on board, mainly German tourists.

After the Turkish-owned jet took off from the Dominican Republic, it climbed through 7,000ft and accelerated to 275mph before appearing to go into a sharp turn and head back towards land. It plunged into the sea 13 miles offshore, breaking up on impact.

There was no mayday call from the pilots, possibly because at the time of the crash they would have been changing radio frequencies from the local airport at Puerto Plata to the main air traffic control centre at San Juan.

The five British airlines, which together operate a total of 89 Boeing 757 twinjets, were last night anxiously awaiting an indication of what caused the crash. The jet had been leased to a local airline to ferry German holidaymakers to and from the Caribbean's fastest-growing destination.

Although the German tour operator which had chartered the holiday jet suggested that the crash may have been caused by lightning, operators of the 693 aircraft of the same type now in service were sceptical. The jet has one of the best safety records of all modern airliners and has proved itself capable of withstanding the most violent storms. There was no suggestion the weather was exceptional at the time, but a sudden squall could have resulted in hail or violent downdraughts which are known as "windshear".



Had the jet suffered an engine failure, it could have turned automatically towards the "dead" engine, appearing to radar operators to be trying to return to land. Then, if the pilots were busy in resolving the immediate problem or the jet was hit at the worst possible moment by the squall, it could have been forced suddenly lower, smashing wing-tip first into the sea.

Rafts were spotted in the shark-infested sea, possibly because they are stored in the doors and would have deployed automatically as the jet broke up.

Flight 301 was filled with German tourists who had spent one or two weeks in the booming resorts of the Dominican Republic. The jet had been "wet leased" — with both flight deck and cabin crew provided — to the Dominican-based airline, Alas Nacionales, by the Turkish charter airline BirgenAir.

Built in 1985, the 757 had originally been used by Eastern Airlines in the USA. It was then sold to a number of other carriers before being bought by BirgenAir last year.

Like most other charter flights from Europe to the Dominican Republic, the plan was for flight 301 to put down at Gander in Newfoundland to refuel on the "great circle" route over Britain on its way to Frankfurt and Berlin.

The Dominican Republic — part of the island of Hispaniola which was discovered by Columbus in 1492 and which it now shares with Haiti — has had one of the most phenomenal growth rates of any holiday destination. This year an estimated 100,000 Britons will visit it — 33 per cent up on last year — of which 50,000 will book with Thomson. Its main attraction, apart from some of the best beaches in the Caribbean, is its cheapness. A two-week all-inclusive holiday costs about £850 per person — £500 cheaper than most similar package holidays.

Oeger Tours, the German tour operator which organised the flights, picked the Turkish charter because it was cheaper and enabled them to save at least £100 per person.

One other theory certain to be examined by the investigation team is that a bomb could have brought down the jet. In 1994 a bomb hidden on an Alas Nacionales commuter plane exploded as it took off from Colón in Panama, killing all 21 people on board.

British Airways has 40 of the aircraft in regular service and it is also a work-horse for charter airlines like Britannia, Monarch, Air 2000 and Airtours.

At the end of December, an American Airlines Boeing 757 crashed into a mountain in Colombia after an apparent navigational error. This is the only other recorded crash involving the jet since it came into service in 1983.

The Turkish-registered Boeing 757 which crashed

Grief-stricken relatives of passengers leaving Berlin's Schönefeld airport

Aristide bows out in Haiti

Port-au-Prince: René Preval was sworn in yesterday as president of Haiti, inheriting a country so worn by grinding poverty that even he has been sceptical he can do much to ease the country's collective pain.

Outgoing President Jean-Bertrand Aristide embraced Mr Preval, then placed the red-and-blue presidential sash over his left shoulder. Mr Preval, 53, lacks the support enjoyed by his predecessor and his feeble popularity may be further weakened when he adopts austerity measures needed to attract foreign aid to the country. *(AP)*

Pakistan renews expulsion plea

Pakistan is stepping up pressure on Britain to expel Altaf Hussain, the leader of the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), who runs a war in Karachi by telephone, fax and Internet from a small office in north London (Christopher Thomas writes). He has applied for political asylum. Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, called him a cowardly rat and mass murderer. He is, however, undisputed leader of 22 million Mohajirs in Sindh province.

FBI finds three stolen paintings

New York: Police recovered three stolen paintings believed to be two Picassos and a Pissarro, worth $15 million (£10 million), from the basement of a block of flats in Long Island City. A Kennedy Airport cargo handler and a man thought to be his accomplice have been arrested. The men were charged with violating a federal interstate shipment statute and grand larceny. *(AP)*

Lesotho King is sworn in

Maseru: Lesotho's King Letsie, 32, has been sworn in to succeed his father, King Moshoeshoe II who died in a car crash. Letsie was king once for five years before he was forced to abdicate by regional states worried about stability. He undertook to abstain from involving the monarchy in politics or with any political parties or groups. *(Reuter)*

Happy as a pig

Stockholm: A vet pronounced 2,500 pigs drunk when they were found staggering around a farm, fighting or lying on the ground squealing after their milky feed had fermented and turned to alcohol. *(AP)*

Japanese premier admits cash link

From Peregrine Hodson
in Tokyo

THE Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, admitted yesterday that he received political contributions from three organisations owed money by housing loan companies which the Government plans to bail out with taxpayers' money.

His admission, in parliament's budget committee session, will heighten public opposition to the bail-out scheme, costing at least 685 billion yen (£4.2 billion) from public funds.

Hiroshi Yamada, of the main opposition party, Shinshinto, said Mr Hashimoto's political fund-raising group received 1.05 million yen from FVM, a vending machine company, and others, while he was Finance Minister in 1990. At the peak of the "bubble" economy, Mr Hashimoto ordered financial institutions to restrict loans to property companies, triggering huge loans to them by housing loan corporations — outside government control.

Many believe his action contributed directly to the bad-loan problem weighing down Japan's financial system. It amounts to at least 4,405 trillion yen, 95 per cent of which is irrecoverable.

Mr Hashimoto has defended his Government's scheme but many believe losses may reach 3 trillion yen, meaning the contribution by taxpayers will be two trillion yen — or about £100 for every man, woman, and child.

Jiang reins in military over Taiwan

From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong

PRESIDENT Jiang Zemin of China is reported to be uneasy about jingoist leaders in the People's Liberation Army who are urging tough action against Taiwan.

According to yesterday's *South China Morning Post*, Hong Kong's leading English-language newspaper, Mr Jiang has warned his more gung-ho generals that an invasion of Taiwan would imperil Chinese reunification with Hong Kong next year and with Macau in 1999. Any such steps, Mr Jiang is quoted as saying, must wait until both reunifications are complete.

The generals are said to have told Mr Jiang, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission, that China should not delay its plans for Taiwan, which they feared would soon take possession of better weapons.

Although in recent weeks Mr Jiang and other party leaders have urged the military to remain obedient to the party, the paper reported that the bellicose military attitude towards Taiwan "has more support in Peking than Mr Jiang would like".

Chinese forces opposite Taiwan are mobilising for military manoeuvres intended to intimidate the Nationalist stronghold as it prepares for its first presidential election next month. Senior military analysts in Hong Kong confirmed yesterday that the build-up is known from satellite photographs and from what is referred to as "travellers". The analysts, however, think the impending war games are not a prelude to a mainland invasion of Taiwan, which they regard as highly unlikely.

In Washington, William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said that he was "concerned but not alarmed" at the mounting Chinese pressure on Taiwan, reports of which are being fuelled by leaks from Peking designed to rattle foreign investors and the island's stock market.

Mr Perry said that last November when Chinese officials in Peking asked Joseph Nye, then Assistant Secretary of Defence, whether the Americans would intervene in the event of a direct Chinese threat to Taiwan, Mr Nye responded: "We don't know what we would do, because it's going to depend on the circumstances, and you don't know what we would do."

This week in Washington, Li Zhaoxing, China's Deputy Foreign Minister, was told that a military threat to Taiwan would be regarded as "a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and a grave concern to the United States", an American official said.

It is reported that a Peking study on China's fighting ability concluded that the Americans would intervene militarily if the mainland plainly menaced Taiwan, and advised against such a threat.

Broadcasting ban eased

Taipei: Taiwan yesterday eased a decades-old ban and allowed Chinese films and television programmes to be shown here. The move was part of an effort to ease tension with China, which has increased over Peking's suspicion that Taiwan is moving towards independence.

It also reflected a growing self-confidence on an island that previously treated such films as Communist propaganda. Up to ten Chinese films a year can be shown in theatres and Chinese soap operas can fill up to 30 per cent of a network's air time. Taiwan has gradually been relaxing the ban. Producers have been making films and soap operas on the mainland and a few award-winning Chinese movies have been shown with permission. ***(AP)***

Red Cross accuses Serbs of massacre

From Peter Capella in Geneva

AT LEAST 3,000 people captured during the fall of Srebrenica are dead and the Bosnian Serb authorities are responsible for the events there last July, a senior official at the International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday.

Jean de Courten, the director of operations, told journalists that the Red Cross had repeatedly presented a list of the 3,000 to Pale over the past five months, without response. "I would like to make it clear that the Bosnian Serb authorities have a serious responsibility for what happened in Srebrenica, and that I am convinced . . . these people are no longer alive. This has been clearly stated to Mr Karadzic [the Bosnian Serb leader]. And, in addition, that the information provides us with the conviction that it has been done by armed elements and the police forces of the Bosnian Serbs."

Mr de Courten, who was visibly bitter, met Bosnian Serb leaders, including Radovan Karadzic, in the Bosnian Serb stronghold late last week. Only 200 people from Srebrenica have been found so far in Bosnian Serb prisons.

Most of the Red Cross's information has been pieced together from interviews with relatives and cross-checked with other sources. The Red Cross has compiled a list of another 5,000 who went missing after they tried to flee the beseiged enclave. The Red Cross has overall responsibility under the Dayton peace accords to trace thousands of people missing after four years of war.

Mr de Courten also criticised Muslims and Serbs for failing to respect the Dayton agreements on releasing detainees. Both sides have hidden prisoners, and he accused the Bosnian Government of restricting access to them.

Tutu: determined not to forget the past

Archbishop refuses to let bygones be bygones

From Inigo Gilmore
in Cape Town

THE appointment of Archbishop Desmond Tutu to head the Truth and Reconciliation Commission investigating apartheid crimes has elevated the status of the Nobel laureate to dizzying new heights. A newspaper cartoon recently went so far as to depict him walking on water.

The Anglican primate, however, is wisely not promising miracles when work begins next month. In an interview with *The Times*, he talked candidly about his challenging mission and in the process underlined why there is so much uncertainty surrounding the work of the commission.

"We ought not to speak glibly, as people have tended to do, who say 'why should you have a Truth and Reconciliation Commission; you are just going to be opening up wounds and stirring up emotions and that we should just let bygones be bygones,'" Archbishop Tutu said. He noted the failure to address the horrors of the turn-of-the-century Boer War. "The trouble is, dealing with it as glibly as that, they can never be bygones and, as you know, those haunting words 'those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it'."

The legislation governing the commission says it should promote national unity and reconciliation that transcend the divisions of the past. This should be done by establishing a picture of human rights abuses committed between March 1, 1960 and December 6, 1993.

Those who make "full disclosures" may apply for amnesty from prosecution. This can be refused, thus paving the way for prosecutions. The panel can summon witnesses and refusing to answer questions can lead to a two-year prison sentence. The panel can also recommend compensation.

The merit of the commission and its direction have been contested. On one side are those who have decried it as nothing more than a "witchhunt" that will hinder reconciliation. At the other end are those who say political horsetrading has weighted legislation in favour of the perpetrator.

Archbishop Tutu, 64, is principally responsible for finding a balance and dispensing absolution accordingly. He concedes that the commission will be unable to get through all the cases: there are estimates of 100,000. There is also the issue of crimes committed outside the country. If a person admits to crimes outside South Africa, can that evidence be used under another legal system? The clergyman admits he has no idea: "It is outside our competence."

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Tub-thumping populist raises Right's standard

Ecstatic Buchanan deals Gramm crippling blow

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AN ELATED Pat Buchanan proclaimed himself the Republican Right's standard-bearer yesterday after dealing Phil Gramm, his conservative rival, a crippling blow in the opening battle of this year's American presidential race.

The outspoken television commentator who grievously wounded President Bush in the 1992 New Hampshire primary, produced another giant-killing performance in Tuesday night's Louisiana caucuses, defeating Mr Gramm in a state the senator believed he had locked up.

Through days of furious tub-thumping populist campaigning Mr Buchanan cobbled together a "new coalition" of anti-abortion activists, protectionists, isolationists and gambling foes in a deeply conservative southern state. He was rewarded with 13 delegates to this August's Republican convention. Mr Gramm won eight.

It was "a victory for a new conservatism of the heart . . . a conservatism of faith, family and country", Mr Buchanan said. "The Battle of the Bayou is over and it has ended in a great triumph for the Buchanan Brigades." It was also a stunning setback for Mr Gramm, one from which this hugely ambitious but little loved Texas senator may find it impossible to recover.

He had pressed Louisiana to hold the nation's first caucuses, believing a thumping victory in his neighbouring state would give him valuable momentum before next Monday's Iowa caucuses. He had worked Louisiana long and hard. Its Republican establishment had rigged the caucus rules in his favour and all the leading Republican candidates save Mr Buchanan had stayed away, preferring to concentrate on Iowa.

Reporters who followed him on to his aircraft after the first exit polls said that he sat in "stunned, disconsolate silence and absently plunged an index finger into an armchair ashtray". After a few minutes, he looked up and said simply: "Can't do a damn thing about it now."

Mr Gramm, who has spent more than two years and $20 million (£13 million) on the campaign trail, gamely toured yesterday's breakfast television shows, insisting that he could rebound in Iowa thanks to a strong grassroots organisation; but that is highly questionable.

Even before Louisiana, he was third or fourth in most Iowa polls and uncomfortably short of funds. His credibility with Iowa's powerful Christian conservatives and potential contributors has been gravely damaged. Other Iowans resent his failure to uphold Iowa's right to hold the first presidential caucuses. Compounding his woes, he was so busy campaigning in Louisiana on Tuesday that he missed a Senate debate on a farm Bill backed by Iowa's many farmers that went down by a single vote.

Mr Buchanan said that he had the credibility to win the nomination. He is certainly on a roll and should perform creditably in his old stomping ground of New Hampshire on February 20, but few analysts seriously believe he can capture the nomination.

The real beneficiary of Mr Gramm's humiliation appears to be Robert Dole, who has always feared his Senate colleague much more than he has Mr Buchanan.

Beaten senator smiles on in Iowa

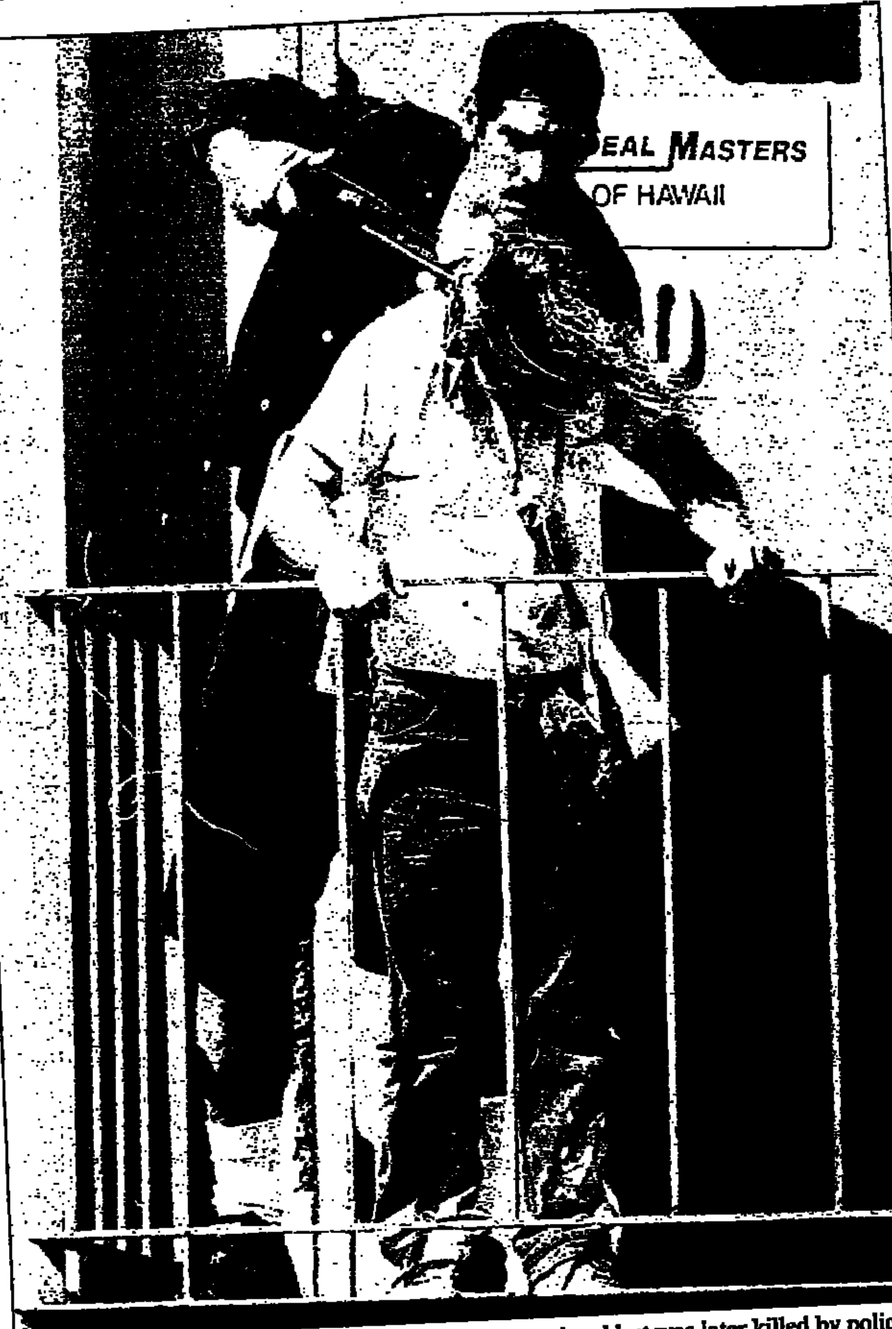
FROM TOM RHODES
IN DES MOINES

HE WAS always known as "Mr Relentless", the most focused, disciplined and unforgiving member of the Republican presidential pack.

Subdued by a crushing defeat in Louisiana less than 24 hours before, Phil Gramm, the Texas senator, still managed to retain a smug optimism yesterday as he arrived in Iowa for the first real test of the 1996 campaign. With the smell of the vanquished still clinging to his coat-tails, the Republican stood before the state capitol in Des Moines to assure faithful Iowans that he would not quit now.

For all his unpopularity in the country as a whole, his poor showing among the religious Right in Louisiana and his absence from the farm Bill vote in Washington, Mr Gramm still has a strong following among the highly agricultural inhabitants of this state. His state machine is strong and, unlike certain Republican colleagues, he has devoted much time to the homes and pig roasts of Iowa, preaching "kitchen table" economics on a grand scale.

On Monday, about 120,000 Republicans will gather at 2,041 party precinct meetings to choose their presidential nominee. Experts believe that Mr Gramm will be among the top three names.



John Miranda holds a gun at a former colleague's head but was later killed by police

Hostage escapes gunman's vengeance

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN HONOLULU

FOR six tense hours, police and a live television audience in Hawaii watched as a sacked worker, who had already shot his former supervisor, stood with a shotgun barrel taped to a colleague's head with his finger taped to the trigger.

"It is going to end with a gun bang," John Miranda promised before he launched into a final 60-second countdown — 59, 58, 57 . . .

When the count reached 15, Tom McNeil, the hostage, tore away from the tape and grabbed the barrel. Miranda fired twice, missing, but police marksmen opened fire, shooting him dead.

"We had to do what we had to do," said Michael Nakamura, the police chief, adding that any chance of resolving Tuesday's ordeal peacefully ended when Miranda began his countdown.

Miranda, 28, died about half an hour after the drama outside the waterproofing business where he once worked. Mr McNeil, 30, was left with scratches, while Guy George, 39, the supervisor who had been shot in the leg earlier, was in hospital.

The confrontation began when Miranda returned to the Seal Master of Hawaii offices with the words: "Good morning, guys, you remember me?"

Madonna: Eva Perón has become role model

Madonna defies critics

New York: Madonna, having discovered that Argentina is less indulgent to Hollywood versions of history than some other countries, has attacked critics of her forthcoming role as Eva Perón (Quentin Letts writes).

The American singer, whom some Argentinians consider unsuitable to play Perón in a film version of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita*, called a news conference to say that she was hurt by the reaction to her arrival in Argentina to make the biographical film. She said: "Form your opinions after you have seen the movie."

She said that Perón, whom many Argentinians almost worship, had become a role model for her. "I am full of admiration for her. She came from nothing to have such influence over the country."

Madonna's announcement, part publicity stunt, included an appeal to ardent Peronists to allow the film to be made without protests.

Peronist loyalists say the wife of the former Argentinian leader should not be played in the $60 million (£39 million) film by a woman named after the mother of Christ who has appeared in rock concerts in skimpy outfits, singing of lust. Slogans such as "Evita Lives! Get out Madonna!" have appeared on walls in Buenos Aires.

Pope hits at Latin America's Protestant invasion

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN GUATEMALA CITY

DIRECTLY confronting the challenge to his Church's traditional dominance in Central America, the Pope has accused Protestant missionaries of sowing "confusion and uncertainty" among Roman Catholics.

On his first visit to Central America in 13 years, the Pope devoted the second day of his stop in Guatemala to a series of reminders that the region had been Catholic for centuries and that many had given their lives for the Church.

The Pope arrived later in Nicaragua with a message of reconciliation for a country still scarred by the civil war that ended in 1990. He travels to El Salvador today.

Protestant evangelical churches in Central America have surged in membership in recent years, worrying Catholic leaders. About 30 per cent of Guatemala's 10.7 million people now identify themselves as Protestants — the largest percentage of non-Catholics in any Central American country.

The poor and Indians may be most in need of guidance from Catholic clergy, the Pope said in an evening prayer service in a Guatemala City park on Tuesday. He said they were the most affected by the "proliferation of sects and new religious groups that generate confusion and uncertainty among Catholics".

Security broke down momentarily as the Popemobile arrived behind the altar for evening Mass in Guatemala City. Scores of enthusiastic Guatemalans broke through police lines to rush toward the pontiff as he stepped out of the vehicle. As the papal entourage walked up the steps of the outdoor altar, people in the 100,000-strong crowd even knocked against the Pope's chief bodyguard while others pounded on the Popemobile's windows.

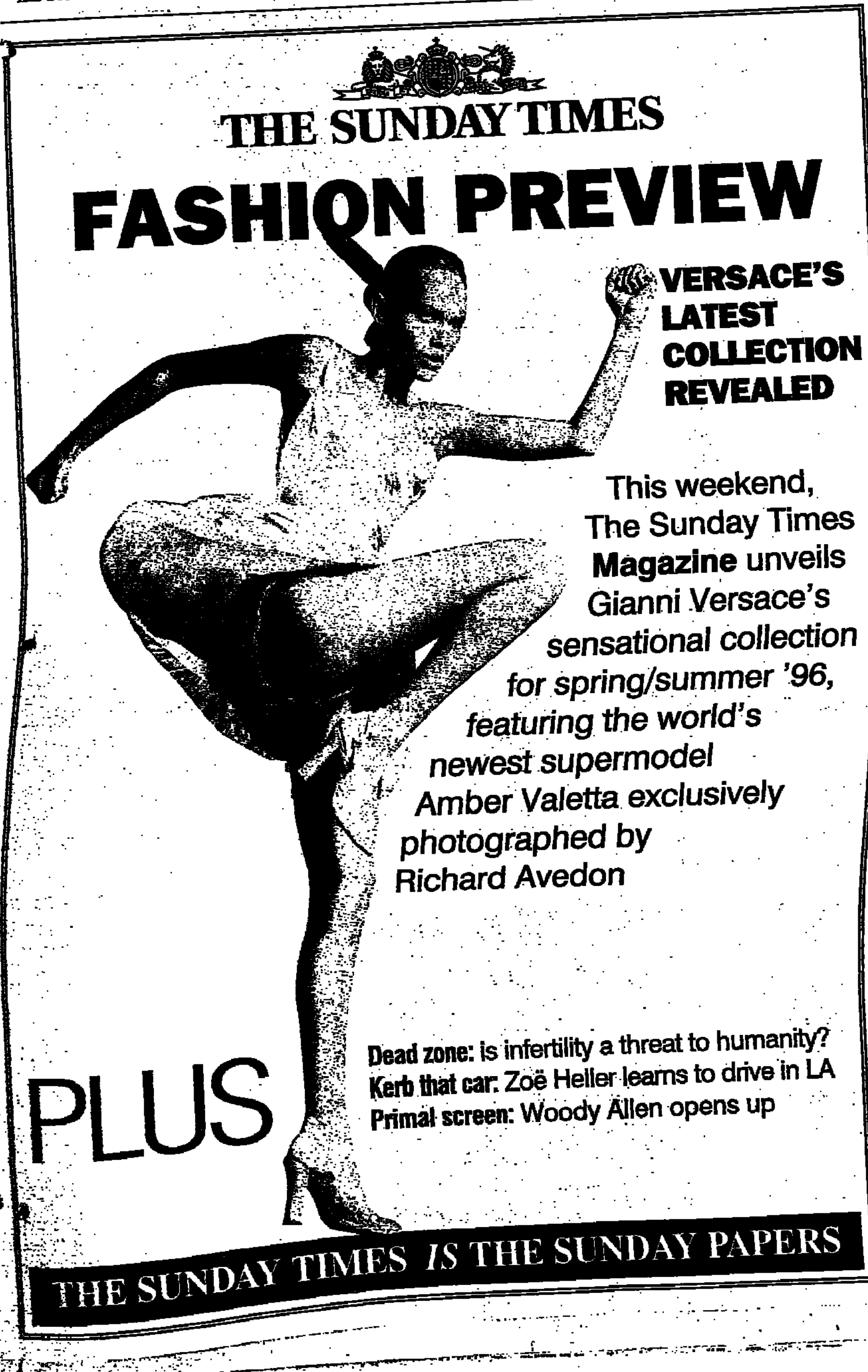
After the Mass, the pontiff hugged young Indian boys and girls and blessed other Indians who mounted the altar. One man held a sheep and a couple carried a basket with a newborn baby in it. Others brought native plants and tropical flowers to be blessed. The Pope displayed one of his brightest smiles of the day as he met with the handful of worshippers.

The pontiff began his day by following the path of Catholic pilgrims, travelling to Esquipulas and visiting the basilica of the Black Christ, a 400-year-old wooden image said to work miraculous healings. It attracted 1.2 million visitors last year.

He cut short his visit there by nearly three hours, however, and returned to Guatemala City. Rain and fog that earlier delayed landing of the Vatican press corps aircraft for two hours was closing in, and could have blocked the Pope from leaving if he waited any longer, officials said.

The change in travel plans had nothing to do with the 75-year-old Pope's health, a Vatican spokesman said. The trip is the Pope's first since he was bedridden by flu at Christmas.

The Pope suggested that a peace process begun in Esquipulas — the scene of 1986 peace accords that helped to end civil wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador — was yet unfinished.


THE SUNDAY TIMES
FASHION PREVIEW
VERSACE'S LATEST COLLECTION REVEALED
This weekend, The Sunday Times **Magazine** unveils Gianni Versace's *sensational collection for spring/summer '96, featuring the world's newest supermodel* Amber Valetta *exclusively* photographed by Richard Avedon
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Kerb that car: Zoë Heller learns to drive in LA
Primal screen: Woody Allen opens up
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The bullet that paralysed a diplomat

Graeme Gibson's work in Nairobi ended when armed car-jackers shot him. **Emma Wilkins** finds out how he and his wife are dealing with disability

As he drove home through the dark streets of Nairobi, British diplomat Graeme Gibson knew he was being followed. Looking carefully in the rearview mirror of his Land Rover Discovery, he watched as a battered Peugeot with two men inside shadowed his every move.

His memory of that night before Christmas is vivid. He tried to shake off his pursuers but was suddenly conscious of their car accelerating and drawing up alongside. A man leant out and fired two shots. The second hit Mr Gibson in the neck, missing a vital artery by a millimetre, but with devastating consequences.

"I knew immediately that I was paralysed. My foot went down on the accelerator and I remember trying desperately to get it off but I couldn't move it," he says.

The car slewed across the road and hit a brick wall. Because his foot was still stuck on the pedal, the car was beginning to fill with fumes. All the doors were locked, in accordance with Foreign Office security advice to diplomats.

"I can remember a crowd gathering around the car but they couldn't get me out because I couldn't move. Someone had to throw a brick through the back window to get me out. I was dragged over the back seats by a man who had seen the shooting. He cradled my head in his lap until the police car arrived and took me to hospital."

Mr Gibson, 43, had been just minutes from home in one of Nairobi's prosperous suburbs when he was attacked. His wife, Pamela, who also works for the Foreign Office in Nairobi, was told about the shooting in a telephone call from a passerby who had helped in the rescue.

"I didn't know what was going on. I thought it might have been some kind of a joke. I jumped in the car and drove around until I saw the Land Rover. He had just been taken away to the hospital, so I followed on behind."

SIMON WALKER

Graeme and Pamela at St Thomas' Hospital

'They've made a spatula attachment for his hands so he can flip over the burgers on the barbecue'

Mr Gibson, a second secretary at the High Commission, knew the dangers of driving through the Kenyan capital at night. Four diplomats had been shot or injured in car-jackings over the previous few months. The Land Rover Discovery cars, driven by diplomats from most nations, are popular targets because of their high black-market value.

The bullet entered his neck on the right side, severing his spinal cord and leaving him paralysed from the chest down. The bullet is now lodged in a vertebra on the left side, but surgery to remove it is too dangerous and could lead to further paralysis. Mr Gibson was flown home for tests at St Thomas' Hospital before being moved to Stoke Mandeville spinal injuries unit. He has no feeling in his legs and lower arms, but some sensation in his shoulders. It could take months before doctors know the permanent extent of his injuries. He has only just learnt how to sit in a wheelchair.

Occupational therapists have now devised attachments which fix on to his hands above the knuckles, including a toothbrush, hairbrush and spatula. "He wanted to be able to do a barbecue, so they devised a spatula attachment to flip over the burgers," Mrs Gibson says.

The couple, who have been married for eight years, are determined to be positive. "Just one millimetre's difference and the bullet could have gone through his vocal cord or a main artery, so it could have been worse," Mrs Gibson says. "His spinal cord is severed so he will never walk again. But he's still very much the same old Graeme — he laughs and gets irascible and frustrated just like he used to."

The couple are hopeful that he may regain some use in his thumb and forefinger, which would allow him a degree of independence. "When I stroke his hand, there is some feeling in the index finger and thumb," says Mrs Gibson. "If he could pick up a fork to feed himself, or be able to tap on a computer, the difference would be enormous."

Graeme Gibson (second from left) with his brothers and mother on his wedding day: he used to be a keen golfer, tennis player and rugby fanatic

Dundee-born Mr Gibson used to be a keen golfer, and had just taken up tennis again after a ten-year break. A self-confessed rugby fanatic, he is a member of the Hash House Harriers, an international group largely made up of expats which he describes as "a jogging club that drinks".

Mr Gibson admits that he has not fully taken in the consequences of his injuries: "It hasn't really hit me psychologically yet. I want to get on with the rehabilitation and find out what I can do," he says.

Mr Gibson has two daughters, Jenny, aged 17, and Ellen, 15, from his first marriage to an American diplomat. The two families arranged to be posted to Kenya together so that the girls could see their father regularly. Mr Gibson's first wife had arrived in Nairobi just a month before the Gibsons began work last year.

"We had been working towards this for such a long time and it had finally all come together," Mrs Gibson says.

The couple have been overwhelmed by the response from friends and colleagues across the world. "Faxes have just flooded in from every continent," Mr Gibson says. "I've had loads of messages from businessmen in Kenya and Britain thanking me for the work I did in the trade department. It shows that the job does have an impact."

Mr Gibson's salary will be paid for the next six months and the Foreign Office has said it hopes he will be able to return to work — possibly from home. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has visited his hospital bedside.

The future for Mrs Gibson is equally uncertain, but another foreign posting is almost certainly ruled out.

Despite the shooting, Mr Gibson's love of Africa is as strong as ever. "I'd love to say I joined the Foreign Office to serve my country, but I'm afraid it was the desire for travel," says Mr Gibson. "I don't regret joining. I was just unlucky. We've had some wonderful times and met some wonderful people. I wouldn't take back a minute of it — well, maybe just 30 seconds."

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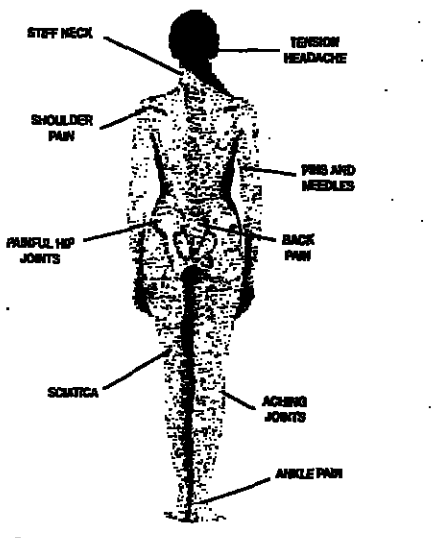

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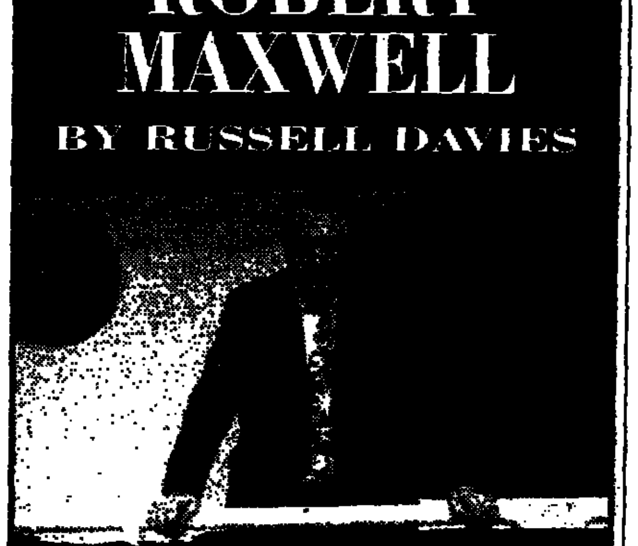

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Who make the best surgeons in today's operating theatres?

Through the keyhole

MEDICAL BRIEFING

◆

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

IN THE past, the more enthusiastic medical students used to spend hours practising tying knots. They exercised their skill by knot-tying in confined spaces and without looking at the thread.

All that activity was to perfect their operating skills so that, in years to come, they could make quick and competent surgeons, capable of tying-off bleeding arteries before their patients became exsanguinated.

These exercises were not only to improve their performance in the simple art of knot-tying, but to develop their sense of touch.

With the advent of keyhole surgery, sensitive fingers are no longer so useful. In minimally invasive surgery the diseased organs are not exposed and seen in three dimensions nor are they felt by carefully nurtured fingers, but they are only viewed on a flat television screen as a two-dimensional image.

Meanwhile the surgeon, instead of getting sight and feel on the operating field, does his cutting, tying and removal of the debris of disease by using an endoscope and other inserted instruments. He monitors his actions by watching his own surgery on the screen.

Keyhole surgery requires quite different manual techniques from those which a surgeon learnt in his youth and which he has been perfecting ever since. A surgeon's judgment, acquired over years of experience, his basic clinical skills and his pre-clinical knowledge are an essential foundation for keyhole surgery, but the type of dexterity required is different and relies on finely honed hand-eye co-ordination.

It is likely that some surgeons will never succeed in mastering the new craft.

The journal *Hospital Doctor* has recently reported on a study undertaken in Washington at the Interface Technology Laboratory. Skilled surgeons investigated the suggestion that a student who had good hand-eye co-ordination, and was therefore a natural master of video games, would also be one who would excel at keyhole surgery.

Forty students were filmed as each of them undertook 100 hours of simulated laparoscopic techniques (keyhole surgery in the abdomen).

The experiment showed that the initial premise was sound: the better the students were at video games the faster they were to master endoscopic surgical techniques.

Being able to use the tools of the trade isn't the only quality of a good surgeon. The skills are far more complex — which is just as well, because one of the examining surgeons found that his own young schoolchildren were considerably faster than he was in acquiring any new technique.

Danger in a wine bottle

WHEN British tourist Charlotte Common, 55, went to Egypt recently she must have discounted anxieties about terrorists, and she would never have considered the possibility of dying as a result of a visit to a supermarket.

Mrs Common bought a bottle of apparently wholesome red wine, but later lapsed into a coma and died. Unfortunately the wine had been contaminated with methyl alcohol, the main constituent of methylated spirits.

The immediate effect of drinking methyl alcohol is less disabling than drinking the equivalent amount of ethyl alcohol, as found in normal wines, spirits and beers. The trouble only becomes apparent once it has been metabolised in the body.

The oxidation of the methyl alcohol in the liver and kidney results in the formation of formic acid and formaldehyde, which in the worst cases causes irreversible damage to eyes, severe headaches, loss of consciousness, and sometimes death.

Souvenir of the tropics

THE controversy about the prevention of malaria after exotic holidays has distracted attention from a review published in *Hospital Update* of a particularly disgusting souvenir which can be brought back from rural areas of Africa and Central America.

Three Newcastle doctors, Dr M.H. Snow, Dr M.J. Colbridge and Dr S.K. Edwards, have written of three recent cases of infestation with bot fly larvae. The infestation, known as myiasis, is caused by a maggot-like insect penetrating the skin. The eggs of the bot fly are carried on the abdomen of another insect, very often the mosquito, and when it settles on the soft tissue of a warm-blooded animal, they hatch. The larvae can pass through clothing, and within ten minutes they are safely buried in the human flesh, where they grow to thumbnail size. The larvae set up an inflammatory reaction like a boil. If a suitable paste is applied to the inflamed area the larva struggles through it to breathe, and can then be pulled out.

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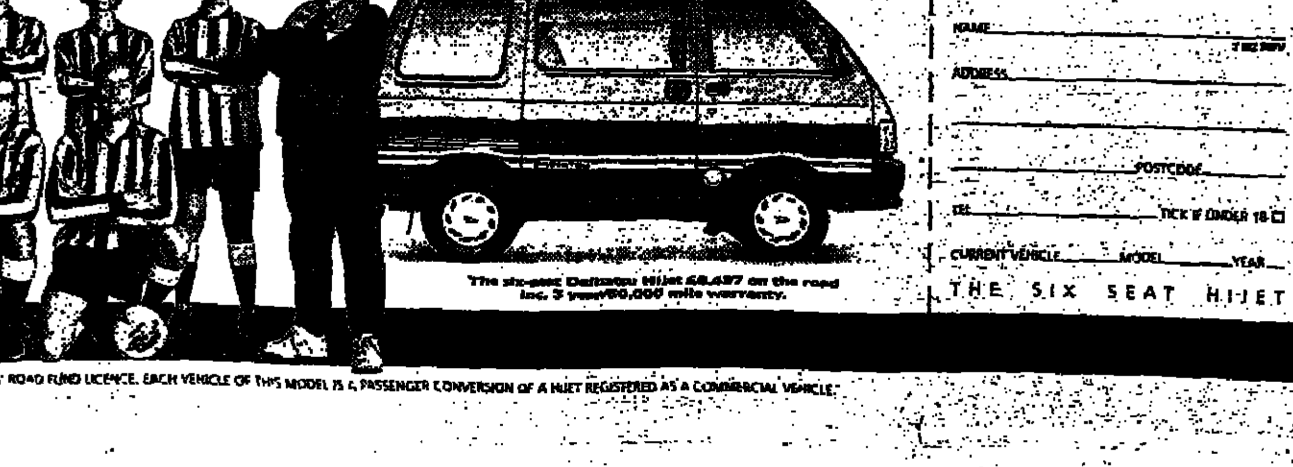
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Cemeteries to die for

As the catacomb comes back into fashion, a simple guide to reserving a last resting space

MICHAEL POWELL

Classical grandeur: the imposing catacombs at Brompton may soon be welcoming the remains of the great-great-grandchildren of Victorian worthies already interred there

THEY *spend their lives* toying with an undressed lettuce leaf in San Lorenzo, shopping on the King's Road and drinking cocktails in Kartouche. So *when they die it is only natural* that the ladies who lunch want to be buried as close as possible to their Knightsbridge stomping ground in the sepulchral splendour of Brompton Cemetery.

Yet the inhabitants of this gilded corner of west London have as little chance of being laid to rest in Brompton's ivy-covered grounds as of joining Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party. Along with *cemeteries all* over London, Brompton, the imposing home to the remains of such luminaries as Emmeline Pankhurst and John Wisden of *almanac* fame, has run out room.

Last week, the cemetery announced that it would be tackling its space deficit by reopening its catacombs to new inmates. At present housing 1,200 lead-lined tombs containing the rotting relics of the Victorian bourgeoisie, the catacombs may soon be welcoming the corpses of their great-great-grandchildren.

"There are many people who would like to be buried here, but at the moment they can't," says a cemetery spokesman. "The *only* space available is in graves purchased by undertakers who then sell the spaces on. When the catacombs reopen there will be room for several hundred more bodies."

All over London, the problem is the same. Deaths are about to boom, from the present figure of 640,000 a year to a peak of 829,000 in the middle of the next century. Yet the cemeteries are full to bursting. Anyone whose heart *is* set on a particular cemetery should book a plot now and expect to pay for it.

"Anyone who wants to be buried in London is talking £3,000 as a conservative estimate," says Ian Hussein, the deputy superintendent registrar of the City of London Cemeteries and Crematoria. Plots at his cemetery ("We have no famous residents, unless you count a few victims of *Jack the Ripper*") cost from £1,500 for a single grave to £16,000 for a family vault. "That doesn't count digging the grave, the headstone and the costs of *the funeral*."

Karl Marx is no doubt turning in his grave at prices in his resting place, Highgate, arguably London's most beautiful, and certainly its most exclusive cemetery. According to Richard Quirk, the manager of *privately-owned* Highgate, prices range from £1,300 for a single grave in the "prosaic east cemetery" to more than £10,000 for a vault in the fashionable west cemetery, near the bones of Ralph Richardson, George Eliot and Faraday.

"We do have a distinct ambience which makes us very popular," says Mr Quirk. "And yes, people of a certain *persuasion might* like *to* be near Marx's grave."

Bernard France, of A. France and Son, a funeral parlour in Bloomsbury, central *London*, says: "*Highgate* is very popular if you want to be buried with all the great and you have the financial resources. It's beautifully kept and has a distinctive, but charming, Gothic gloom. Sometimes when we are dealing with *a distinguished* person, you really feel you should mention it as an option."

Also popular with Mr France's customers, as well as *being cheaper*, is *Hampstead* cemetery, which houses Lister, Marie Lloyd and one Arthur Price, a ventriloquist buried with his dummy. This, however, is local-authority controlled and open only to residents of the borough of *Camden*.

In the private sector, Mr France recommends leafy Kensal Green, in northwest London, where Thackeray, *Brunel and Trollope are buried*. According to Julie Rugg, of the Cemeteries Research Group at York University, it was Kensal Green which set the trend for Victorians to be buried in cemeteries. "Two children of George III chose to *be buried there — the first* members of the Royal Family to be buried among commoners. After that, everybody wanted to go there."

Opened in 1832, Kensal Green was the first cemetery in London, designed to house the overflow from the cramped churchyards, where gravediggers frequently had to dig through bodies to make space for new ones. The first private cemeteries, opened *with profit in mind, were often* so crowded that one family in the 1840s complained that the ground level at the graveyard next door had risen so high it was now *level* with their windows. Vicars, who received a large proportion of *their income from burial fees*, discouraged the development of new burial grounds.

"It was at this time that the catacombs at Brompton be*came incredibly* fashionable," says Dr Rugg. "People saw them as being in the tradition of the landed gentry with their family vaults."

It took the cholera epi*demic of 1849 to change* this fashion. "Catacombs were seen as insanitary. People thought they were catching diseases from these bodies buried above the ground and the catacombs *were forced to close*." *The City* of London has never closed its catacombs. "They've never been that popular," says Mr Hussein. Brompton, meanwhile, is planning to charge between £1,500 and £3,000 per cell, *using profits to restore the* catacomb buildings.

Those too impecunious to reserve a place in the houses of the dead might prefer to be cremated, like 70 per cent of the population.

"For *cremation*, many people like Golders Green Crematorium," says Mr France. Opened in 1902, Golder's Green, a listed build*ing with 12 acres of garden*, including a dispersal-lawn planted with more than a million crocus bulbs, was London's first crematorium and hundreds of celebrities have gone up in smoke there, including *Dame* Peggy Ashcroft, Marc Bolan, Vivien Leigh, Sid James, Anna Pavlova and T.S. Eliot. In the grounds there are memorials *to, among others, such* crematees as Freud, Chamberlain, Kipling and Peter Sellers. A cremation costs £210.

For those still undeterred by *the price of internment*, the best solution might be to be laid to rest in the back garden. "It is not illegal, so long as you keep a burial register and are *not going to poison a water* supply," says Dr Rugg. "But I have never heard of anyone actually doing this. It sounds like a nice idea, but think what *it does to the* resale value *of the* property."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

Benedict Nightingale raises the curtain on a curious world where you can earn a fortune by pretending to be yourself

Acting — or simply living the part?

Recently there was a rumour that Stephen *Fry was going to play* himself in a television version of *Fat Chance*, Simon Gray's book about the disastrous production of his play *Cell Mates. In other* words, Fry would be a large, worried actor who flees England for Bruges and ends up in a beret posing as someone called Monsieur Simon.

Actually, his next major task is *to take the lead in a film* about Oscar Wilde, and, if we are to believe its makers, this will be almost as close a match. "Stephen's intelligence, flamboyance *and wit are such* it makes incredible sense," one of the producers is quoted as saying. *Fry* will, it seems, still be somewhat typecast.

But typecasting can, of course, go a lot further than that. Anthony Quayle, who often played war heroes on the screen, really was a war hero. *Tony Hancock was a gloomy*, insecure man, desperate for intellectual recognition and painfully aware of the gaps in his education, just like his *persona on television*. Sybil Thorndike, vicar's daughter and socialist idealist, felt that Shaw's St Joan was in large part herself. Noël Coward was *invariably* Noël Coward, especially when he was saying Noël Coward things in Noël Coward plays.

Nell Gwyn, the first female star of our stage, brought her own mischief, gusto and erotic *charisma to roles that even her* great admirer, Pepys, sometimes found "very smutty". She was as much the tantalising sexpot onstage as *off it*, and, on the few occasions

Fry playing Fry, Coward as the archetypal Coward: two classic examples of typecasting

she performed tragedy, she contrived to remain her irrepressible self. After committing suicide in Dryden's *Tyrannic Love*, she leapt off her bier to reassure her male fans she was "the ghost of your poor departed Nelly" and promised to "come dance about your bed at night".

Of course all actors are typecast to some extent. Their bodies, faces, voices and, often, personalities dictate or limit who they can play. You would never cast Glenda Jackson as the shrinking Desdemona, or Quentin Crisp as Tamberlaine the Great, or Edward Fox, the quintessential Edward VIII, as Bill Sikes. Yet acting is a slippery business, which constantly surprises and persistently eludes definition.

It is more than padding that is currently transforming Oliver Ford Davies, who won an Olivier award for his playing of a very thin vicar in David Hare's *Racing Demon*, into a very fat John Ogdon in William Humble's *Virtuoso* at the Wolsey, Ipswich. Nor *is it* just a northern accent and a streetwise slouch that turns the elegant Diana Rigg into Mother Courage at the National. *A mark of major actors* is an uncanny ability to reinvent themselves from top to toe. It is to resist typecasting.

Even so, this often involves drawing on aspects of themselves they have in common with the characters they are playing. Though Olivier was always considered the most external of important actors — one who *mimicked* others rather than exposed his own nature — his Macbeth was praised for its uniquely dark, inner qualities. Why? Surely because he knew what it meant to hunger to become and remain number one.

The great megalomaniac actors have often scored special successes in despotic roles. The venomous Kean was a superb Richard III. Macready, who scorned other performers as "beasts from hell", was brilliant as Coriolanus and King John. Wolfit, a *monster of egoism*, was a wonderfully domineering Lear. Edith Evans *was* Lady Bracknell.

Typecasting can be deceptive. *It can even be a sort of* disinformation. Rex Harrison usually played cool, urbane, affable men, yet in private was the selfish ogre whose last words to his solicitous son from his deathbed were: "*What can you do? Drop dead.*" But for better actors typecasting has meant owning up, telling truths about themselves.

Was Michael Redgrave the stronger in the role of the Captain in Strindberg's *Father* for being a tormented bisexual? Certainly, one critic praised him for showing "the weakness of the lonely neurot*ic behind the Captain's sham* virility". Was the late Robert Stephens the moving Falstaff he was because he knew that drink and dissolute living had wrecked him and his career?

But here we are talking about something deeper and more private than the term "typecasting" can convey. If you want a more literal example of what it means, none is more horribly apt than John Barrymore's farewell to the stage, a play called *My Dear Children*. It concerned a Shakespearean ham on the skids, and at the time the once-great actor was skidding almost to skid-row.

Offstage, *he was drinking* everything from ammonia to camphor; he was given to urinating in lifts and hotel lobbies; his language was as vile as his appearance; he made drunken passes at *anyone female*, from tarts to waitresses to his own daughter to his estranged wife, who was less than half his age.

The audiences, who knew some of this, flocked to see the abject self-portrait, and Barrymore fulfilled their expectations, tipsily fluffing his lines, or falling asleep on stage, or giving crude, offensive curtain-speeches.

It was called "the spiritual striptease of Gipsy Rose John", "the complete obliteration of Dr Jekyll by Mr Hyde". *And what did Barrymore do* next? He made a film called *The Great Profile* about a ruined actor drunkenly adlibbing through a trashy play. *Typecasting* has gone, or sunk, no further.

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Alan Coren

■ Don't talk tosh about Cézanne's art — I know how he rose to fame

You don't know how lucky I am. I have been up Cézanne's ladder. It has an iffy rung. I do not, however, intend to tell you which one. Not unless we meet, and you say: "For me, *Hills and Mountains in Provence* has always been the fulcrum of his development. I'm not talking only about the new audacity, I'm talking about that extraordinary palpability in its structure which shows just how far Cézanne had advanced beyond the mirages of impressionism."

If you say that — certainly if the woman opposite counters with "Yes, it was once owned by Gauguin, you know, but the point came when Paul could no longer endure what he called the aggression of its solidity" — I shall put down my fork and say, "I have been up his ladder."

I can do a full five minutes on Cézanne's ladder. It was a good ladder, honest, coarse-hewed, thick-poled, peg-jointed, no nails, no worm either, a bit of warp of course, after all this time, but no unsettling whip, you could be five metres up that ladder and not know you were on one, provided you remembered the iffy rung, it had this creak. I can't say whether or not it creaked when Cézanne went up it, a century is a long time in laddering. Then again, it might depend what he was carrying, he was a big man by 1886 and if he had an easel under one arm, possibly a heavy box of painter's bits and bobs under the other, it might even account for the rung becoming iffy in the first place. We cannot know all there is to know about such things, your Johnny Art is a mysterious cove, and while it is diverting to think that my ear might have shared a creak with Cézanne's, I am not jumping to any conclusions.

I rented the ladder in 1986. Not just the ladder, naturally; you do not load your family into a stationwagon and drive to Aix-en-Provence for a fortnight up a ladder. I rented a nicely mottled 18th-century house because it had this terrific swimming-pool with the Mont Ste-Victoire reflected in it, you could float through it on your back, it was the only view of the mountain Cézanne never saw, the pool wasn't built until 1920. Not that I know whether he could swim, I should have to ask the woman opposite, or that bloke at the far end who was banging on about Cézanne's architectural approach to the female buttock a bit back, green underpainting to relate flesh to rock, all that.

It was the elderly *gardien* who told me about Cézanne going up the ladder. His father and grandfather had been *gardiens* before him, and one of his grandfather's duties had been to prop the ladder against the wall so that Cézanne could climb onto the flat roof for an aspect of the mountain unavailable anywhere else. Many a morning, Cézanne would trudge a kilometre up the lane from the Jas de Bouffin, the house he inherited from his father in 1886, climb the ladder and gaze.

I did that, too. Sometimes, I took a bottle up. Between the first glass and the last, the evening mountainflank would change from pink to blue by going through a million colours between which have no names at all.

I did not know then, of course, what a very important thing this was to have done. That was because I did not know that a huge Cézanne retrospective would open at the Tate today and become the most talked-about event in the whole history of talking. I have already been to two dinner parties and a lunch where they talked of little else and the exhibition hadn't even opened; the scalp crawls at the prospect of all the talking which lies ahead, after everyone has seen the thing. And everyone will see the thing. It is the thinking man's *Mousetrap*.

I do not want to hear anybody's opinion about Cézanne's pictures. I never want to hear anybody's opinion about anybody's. Not least because courtesy requires a response, and before I know it I feel my own jaw going up and down, and hear my own mouth trotting out tosh. Which is why, this time, I am one of the lucky ones. For once, I am in a position to counter the, er, mirage of aesthetic criticism with the aggressive solidarity of anecdote. I shall tell them about going up his ladder. And if that doesn't make them put a sock in it, I shall do his bucket.

Because there was this old wooden bucket in the wash-house, and the *gardien* said . . .

"I may be gone for some time..."

No minister: Bart's belongs

A great hospital is facing closure, but there is a better alternative

William Rees-Mogg

I am not a frequent resigner. I usually accept the American adage "if you don't keep your feet under the table, you don't get to carve the turkey". However, this week I have felt that I had to resign from the task force on the future use of the St Bartholomew's Hospital site, the most important historic site in world medicine.

On Tuesday, I wrote to Sir Ronald Grierson, the chairman, with whom my personal relations remain excellent: "I feel that I should confirm my decision to resign from the St Bartholomew's Hospital Committee. As you know, my view is that the King's Fund proposal is the most promising that we have seen so far. If it is held that we cannot consider this, I see no further use in the committee."

My experience on the task force has convinced me that there is no appropriate alternative function for more than a fraction of the Bart's site which is remotely economical, and no valid non-medical use which is likely to be financable. The press states that the cost of recommissioning the site for the London School of Economics — probably the most attractive non-medical proposal — would be £150 million; that would have to come out of charitable or public funds. Even that excludes the £65 million of net gain from property sales anticipated in the Royal Hospitals Trust's case for a new single-site hospital in Whitechapel, and the LSE figure has probably been taken before VAT. If one includes the site value write-off, and the likely tax, the cost of transferring the LSE to the Bart's site is of the order of £250 million, more than the gross capital cost of the proposed single-site hospital, or of either of the two-site alternatives. The combined cost of building the single-site hospital, decommissioning Bart's, writing off the existing Bart's site value — not to mention £100 million of recently installed medical facilities — and of rebuilding to meet the LSE's needs, with fitting up and paying VAT, cannot be less than £500 million, an absurd figure.

Two 1995 consultant studies have thrown doubt on the financial calculations of the plan for a single-site hospital. CASPE Consulting, employed by the authoritative King's Fund, comments: "The continued preference of the single-site option, on financial grounds, is reliant on the disposal of the Bart's site. Without a firm guarantee of site disposal, the taxpayer could be left holding an expensive white elephant." The York Economics Consortium commented that "the preferred option generates an additional saving of £9 million at a cost of almost £100 million additional capital spending. We believe that there is sufficient uncertainty around the estimates of net revenue savings — which are central to the appraisal — to make the assumed difference in costs between the options extremely sensitive".

The most recent large single-site hospital to be built in London is the Chelsea and Westminster. Combined forecasting errors came close to an overrun of £200 million. The capital cost turned out to be more than double the original business plan estimate; the property sales came to less than half, and revenue costs also overran substantially. The proposed Royal London revenue saving of £9 million on £100 million of extra capital spending could easily turn into a large revenue deficit on a larger, but unknowable, capital sum.

Both the CASPE and the York Economics Consortium studies show that the specific Bart's decision needs to be re-examined. I do not think that anyone who has been involved with the Bart's decision, or who was involved with the Chelsea and Westminster decision, could still believe in the open-mindedness of the Department of Health, or, in the Bart's case, of the Royal Hospitals Trust. Objectors have faced a mixture of dogma, bureaucracy and skilful lobbying, with minimal willingness to listen to counter-arguments.

There is already a shortage of beds throughout the National Health Service, and particularly in London. I could write several articles about the horror stories of patients, but the hard statistics make the case. Either Britain is already grossly short of beds, or the rest of Europe is grossly wasteful. Dr Max Gammon has for years followed the reduction in the number of hospital beds per thousand of population in Britain.

If one takes the latest figures available from the OECD, England in 1993 had 4.5 beds per 1,000, as against 7.6 in 1980. France had 9.4 against 11 in 1980. Germany 10.1 against 11.5, Italy 6.7 against 10.1, and Spain 4.2 against 5.4; the European average is 8 against 9.7 in 1980. All the European countries show a decline, but England shows a faster decline than any, and to a level lower than any except Spain. This has been achieved partly by reductions in the average period of stay in hospital, but also by such practices as "hotbedding", mixed wards, holding patients on trolleys and the reduction in the margin for emergencies. One major flu epidemic could well overwhelm the English hospital system.

This loss of hospital beds in England seems to have developed a momentum of its own. No fewer than 103,000 beds were lost in the 1980s, and beds per 1,000 fell further, from 5.5 to 4.5, in the period between 1990 and 1993. This is not because Britain is underspending on public health. We spend about the same in Britain as the average in the EU: around 6 per cent of gross domestic product. The rest of the EU does, however, spend somewhat more in the independent sector, about 1.7 per cent of GDP, against Britain's 1.2 per cent.

The decision to close Bart's rests on three false premises. The first is that there is a profitable alternative use for the site, or, at worst, an appropriate use which will not cost the public money. No such uses have been proposed to the task force. The second is that the cost of the new hospital will not exceed the plan estimate, and that the revenue saving will not fall short. The two most recent independent consultants question these assumptions. The third is that the reductions in the number of NHS beds can safely continue, although English beds are probably now at half the average European level. The closure of Bart's is part of the bed closure programme which has already reduced much of London medicine to a Poor Law standard. This deterioration is particularly disturbing in the Royal Hospitals Trust's deprived area.

The King's Fund scheme has many merits. The King's Fund proposal is that Bart's should have a new start under a new Charitable Foundation, with a range of healthcare institutions, some in partnership with the NHS, some charitable and some private. The foundation, according to the CASPE report, would be able to offer better services to patients, at a lower cost to the taxpayer. It would include a major non-profit-making independent hospital group, admitting both NHS and private patients, major elective in-patient services, day surgery, a much-needed out-patient consulting centre, emergency admissions for local GP referrals, and cover for the Royal London during redevelopment.

Around that core would be created the local, charitable and educational services for which Bart's is particularly well suited, together with advanced research facilities. All of this would have substantial charitable support — the name of Bart's alone is worth £8 million a year as a charitable brand. If the King's Fund proposal were adopted, any cost-overruns would be the new foundation's responsibility, not the Treasury's.

Unfortunately, the Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, refuses to reconsider the Royal London single-site solution and the closure of Bart's. He is not willing to consider the King's Fund proposal. He is not willing to "reverse the decisions of [his] predecessor", even though the King's Fund proposal did not exist in his predecessor's time, even though he admits that he might have "handled things differently".

When I became Chairman of the Arts Council in 1982, a similar prejudice existed in arts funding, a hostility against any funding that did not come from the State. The arts have benefited enormously from the development of alternative sources of funding, including sponsorship and charitable giving, but that was a change of policy for the Arts Council. The King's Fund proposal would not only make better medical provision for a deprived area, and save the Bart's tradition of excellence, but would help to bring additional funds into medical care. The Bart's issue involves the choice between catastrophe and an opportunity, between something much worse and something much better than we have at present. The orthodox view — and Mr Dorrell's — is that it is better to let the whole system break down than to try new methods of organisation and funding.

Culture is not anarchy

Schools must reject relativism, says

Nicholas Tate

Last month *The Times* reported the death in Massachusetts of the last surviving speaker of Cotawba, a North American Indian language. He had faced death knowing that with him would die not just a language but a whole culture. Cotawba is not unique. It joins the long list of languages and cultures which have succumbed to the advance of the West. A new empathy for cultures which have been under threat was symbolised last year when the Queen signed legislation in the name of the New Zealand Government tendering its profound regret and an unreserved apology to the Maoris for the seizure of their land.

But we are not without cultural anguish of our own. We lament the waning of many aspects of our own culture: the continuing "melancholy, long, withdrawing roar" of Christianity, the decline of knowledge of the classics, the illiteracy of new élites, the passing of the England of "the meadows, the lanes, the guildhalls, the carved choirs", and the threat to cultural diversity from the global communications revolution. When half of young people aged 15-35 feel that there are no definite rights and wrongs in life, when the same proportion do not know what Good Friday commemorates, and even more are ignorant of our history, it is not surprising that some people — not only the middle-aged and the nostalgic — feel that cultural continuity hangs by a thread.

It is about time we had a clearer view of education's role in these matters. That is why the Government's School Curriculum and Assessment Authority is hosting an international conference this week on culture, society and the curriculum.

In my view, there are four principles on which we need to agree. First, that a basic purpose of education is to help young people to appreciate the best of our cultural inheritance and to sustain it. This needs to be said, if only to combat the romantic individualism which supposes that each new generation can somehow create the world afresh.

Second, that the curriculum needs to be firmly and proudly based in a cultural heritage with its roots in Greece and Rome, in Christianity and in European civilisation. This is why our present curriculum emphasises the centrality of British history, Britain's changing relations with the rest of the world, the English literary heritage (with Shakespeare in pride of place) and the study of Christianity, alongside the development of critical skills.

Third, that all pupils should be made aware of the rich heritage of some of the other cultures and traditions now represented in this country. All pupils, for example, should leave school knowing that both China and the Indian subcontinent are the homes of ancient civilisations with rich artistic and literary traditions. Teaching about other cultures in schools is too often about superficial features, such as saris and samosas, rather than about these great achievements.

Fourth, that schools should aim to develop in young people a sense that some works of literature, music, art and architecture are more valuable than others. Until recently, hardly anyone would have doubted this. Though they were subject to change and dispute, it was accepted that there was a literary canon, an artistic canon, a musical canon, and so on.

Today, however, cultural education takes place against a different background. The dominant intellectual current is cultural relativism. According to this view there is no difference in value between, say, Schubert and Blur, between Milton and Mills & Boon, or between Vermeer's *View of Delft* and a dead sheep at the Tate. All are cultural products to be understood, not in terms of their value, but in relation to the structures and circumstances — including the gender, race and social class of the artist — within which they were produced.

By contrast, a key purpose of the curriculum has been and should continue to be the introduction of young people to high culture: the pursuit of knowledge and the arts for their own sake, the exercise of judgment irrespective of the circumstances in which the work of art was produced, and a sense of intrinsic value of those works of art which have been supremely successful in helping us to make sense of and respond to the world.

Certain implications follow from these broad principles. The school curriculum needs to help develop a sense of civic and national identity, and to maintain the distinctive features of English as it is written and spoken in these islands, in the face of its growth as a world language. Schools should also reflect our belief that despite technological changes, the written word, and in particular the book, has a special place at the heart of our culture.

Cultural continuity is also about the transmission of moral codes. The idea of universal values has been central from the Greeks to the Enlightenment. Perhaps we need a reassertion of this moral tradition.

These issues arouse strong passions. The school curriculum has long ceased to be a secret garden, and debate needs to involve the whole community. As T.S. Eliot put it: education is a "religious question", not just a matter of "getting on".

Dr Nicholas Tate is chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

DIARY

Dishonoured

UNIVERSITY lecturers are so appalled at a proposal to give Kenneth Clarke an honorary degree that they are threatening to strike. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is being considered for an honorary doctorate in Law at Nottingham Trent University, and academics are aghast.

It is not so much his academic record that has got mortarboards spinning, as the manner in which the Government has cut back funding at his behest. The lecturers also point out that the university's policy to date has been to avoid honorary doctorates for serving politicians.

A final decision about the degree will be made at the end of the month by the university's board of governors. But there are concerns that the old boy network might swing matters Clarke's way — the chairman of the governors, Sir David White, was at Clarke's school, Nottingham High, and is a long-standing friend of the cherubic Chancellor.

At the weekend, the lecturers' union, NATFHE, raised the matter at a conference in London, saying: "We all want to know why the university wants to honour a serving politician who has just imposed cuts of £300 million on higher education." The university refused to be drawn on the matter — plans for honorary awards are "strictly confidential".

Hick up

ONE SUREFIRE indication of the esteem in which the England cricket manager Ray Illingworth holds his team is the Sky Sports fantasy cricket team that he has created. He scoured the world for talent, but picked just two England players, Michael Atherton and Graeme Hick. None of the English bowlers, it seems, are up to scratch.

Team spirit

ROMANCE will soon blossom on the terraces at Old Trafford, and we are not talking about schoolgirl crushes on Ryan Giggs or Eric Cantona. Manchester United has just received a licence for marriage ceremonies at the hallowed ground. Yesterday the red army (as fans in that neck of the woods are termed) put the Old Trafford switchboard under relentless pressure. Everybody wants to score in the game of two halves.

Many will be disappointed, however. "Regulations are strict and it is important that people realise they can't get married on the pitch," says a spokesman. "We hope to be able to cope with four weddings a day." Requests for ceremonies on the roof of the new grandstand have already been turned down.

Eggsactly

RELATIONS between two of the most forthright women in Westminster have turned as bitter as the winds from Siberia. Teresa Gorman has fired off an icy note to Edwina Currie over her latest appalling bonkbuster. In the book's epilogue, Edwina writes: "Teresa Gorman had at last succumbed to advancing years, stopped taking the tablets [a reference to her HRT treatment] and shrunk to a benign little granny."

"I wrote a little note to Edwina to ask her if it was really necessary for her to make such comments, and she replied saying, 'read the book', but I really don't have time to read that stuff," explains Teresa, who distinguished herself yesterday in the MP's Bramley apple and spoon race.

"She has really fished around in the garbage of Parliament in order to make snide remarks about people. I think it's sad." And they are on the same side.

Teresa, unjustly treated

● *Cézanne fever has gripped London, but there is also worldwide interest in the Tate Gallery's exhibition. Rumours spread yesterday that the teenage bride Sarah Cook came back to Britain from Turkey solely for the private view. And the gallery has received a call from the* Bournemouth Echo. *"They asked for an interview with Cézanne," explains a spokeswoman. "But only dear Doris Stokes could have accomplished that."*

Horse drawn

THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S eventing days may be over, but there are high hopes in the Queen's household of further glory in the sport. Tabitha Ross, daughter of Col Malcolm Ross, Comptroller to the Lord Chamberlain, is being tipped to represent Britain in the Olympics — if not this time then in 2000 — on her trusty steed, HRH.

Ross, 25, had wanted to call the horse, which she keeps at her stable in Abergavenny, HRH the Prince of Wales, because he was sired by the stallion Ascendant. "However, Buckingham Palace said we couldn't name a horse after a member of the Royal Family, but we could have HRH, which is as good as," whinnies Tabitha. "Now, because my father works for the Queen, people think we are fawning monarchists, but it was a separate thing."

Tabitha and her mount

● *Elizabeth Connell, who plays Isolde in the English National Opera's* Tristan and Isolde, *which opens on Saturday, plans to keep sweet during the five-and-a-half-hour marathon by sticking straws through the set. She will sneak sips of water from hidden bottles in the event of dehydration.*

P·H·S

هكذا من الكحل

BLAIR'S CONSTITUTIONAL

Labour's leader still walks on the uncertain side

The clearest water in British politics now lies between the Labour and Conservative positions on the constitution. Yesterday, as Tony Blair set out the principles behind his support for constitutional reform, the Tory party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, gave notice that he would harry the Labour leader mercilessly over what he described as "an entirely new constitutional order based on fashionable left-wing prejudices in defiance of the wisdom of the ages".

The electoral rhetoric is clear enough. But what of the wisdom of the ages itself? It cannot be doubted that Britain's constitution is the result of evolutionary rather than revolutionary change, that it has never been torn up and replaced, simply added to and amended in response to circumstances. Equally, nor has it always stood still. The question now is whether Labour's proposals fit the evolutionary tradition or represent a damaging revolutionary upheaval.

Incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and the introduction of a freedom of information Bill are examples of good incremental reform. As we have argued before, the human rights measure would enable British citizens to appeal to British rather than European judges if their rights have been infringed. And freedom of information would return power to the citizen that has been jealously guarded by politicians and civil servants. Neither threatens political stability.

Nor would a judicious return of powers to local government. As Simon Jenkins has often, and eloquently, argued on the page opposite, the accretion of power to Whitehall and Westminster must be reversed. Big government is almost inevitably bad government; and one reason why national politicians are held in such low repute is that people feel so remote from the political decisions that affect their lives.

Even reform of the House of Lords ought to be achievable without rending the fabric of British parliamentary life. As long as hereditary peers who have proved their worth are included in the new chamber, there is much to be said for merit, rather than birth, determining its make-up. If an element of elected accountability can be introduced too, so much the better.

The critical problem arises over devolution, particularly to Scotland. The decentralising arguments which pertain to local government are as powerful north of the border: but they have the added force that Scottish discontent with the current system has lent them. There is also a strong case that devolution would be effective at keeping the Union together, as the Unionists in Northern Ireland already understand.

The Scots have long complained that, while they consistently vote for Labour in large numbers, they end up being governed by Tories. The difficulty, though, is that abolishing this anomaly merely replaces it with another: the knotty West Lothian question which, in its many forms, draws attention to the asymmetry that would result if MPs at Westminster were able to vote on English and Welsh matters but not Scottish ones.

The logical response to this question is to prevent Scottish MPs from voting on English and Welsh legislation, confining their powers to matters covering the UK as a whole. Yet that could lead to the impossible position of a Labour majority government being unable to pass its own legislation in England and Wales: this would have been the case after the October 1974 election, when Labour's majority was maintained by its Scottish MPs.

Mr Blair is well aware of the importance of the West Lothian question. But he has yet to come up with an answer to it. Until he does, it is impossible to pass judgment upon his devolution plans. For the collateral damage that they might wreak could be greater than the discontent that they are designed to address. Evolutionary tradition demands that the risks of change should not outweigh its benefits.

LILLEY'S LOGIC

The future of pensions is private

The central issue in every developed country, according to Peter Lilley, is how to curb welfare spending. Yesterday the Social Security Secretary outlined his modest proposals for nudging more people towards private provision. He also made short work of the small beer presented as an elixir for instant social cohesion by the Opposition. Mr Lilley has established a formidable reputation as a reformer on tricky political terrain. But there is still further to go.

Mr Lilley, in an inaugural lecture to the think-tank *Politeia*, chose to deal with the most significant part of his portfolio — provision for the elderly. He skilfully delineated the central problem, recognised by Government and Opposition alike; in years to come an ageing population will make greater than ever demands on a shrinking workforce. He also pointed out that the State does not save, individuals do. The Government spends £90 billion a year on social security, but that is simply current expenditure immediately disbursed. If care is to be taken of the millions more who will be living on pensions in a generation's time then money needs to be put away, money the Government does not have. The proposals unveiled by Mr Lilley yesterday to encourage small businesses without occupational schemes to set up group personal pensions should help relieve some more of the State's burden.

The Opposition has not tried to pretend that the cradle-to-the-grave welfare state can continue unreformed. Its leaders know that cold arithmetic would quickly puncture any such inflated rhetoric. Instead they pose as the genuinely radical reformers. Labour figures argue that only their own party, as the founder of the welfare state, is equipped to make the tough decisions necessary. Just as only Nixon could go to China so, it is said, only Labour can reform welfare: the status quo's supporters have to be turned on by their own side.

It is a familiar argument, but one which in this case is as unconvincing as it is ahistorical. By Labour's logic it should have been the only party capable of curbing the over-mighty trades unions of the Sixties and Seventies: instead its attempts ended in humiliation. It needed Margaret Thatcher and Norman Tebbit to put the unions in their place. The real lesson is that tough problems are only solved by politicians who know their own mind. Labour still does not, as Mr Lilley showed yesterday.

The Social Security Secretary argued that two Labour proposals, a guaranteed minimum pension and a compulsory second pension, already exist in the shape of the state pension plus income support and the State Earnings Related Pension Supplement. Labour has shown recent interest in Asian models, in the shape of Singapore's compulsory Central Provident Fund and the trade union-influenced Australian pension funds. Both, however, involve the direction of investment for political ends — and both consequently yield less income than wholly private schemes.

The thrust of Mr Lilley's analysis is persuasive — the most effective way to safeguard care is for individuals to make their own provision. Moving in that direction will mean that many may have to pay twice, for their own future and for those currently on the state pension. Any movement must be gradual. But the direction should be clear — the erosion of state support and an eventual system fully funded by personal savings. That would be true stakeholding, and has the potential to be genuinely popular capitalism.

NO OTHER FRUIT

London falls under Cézanne's tenacious spell

Paintings and sketches by Paul Cézanne — bright leaves in an artistic whirlwind — have come to the Tate Gallery in London. Prize works are here from galleries great and small: St Petersburg, Philadelphia, São Paulo, Paris, Berlin, Liverpool, Basle, Los Angeles and more. Londoners and London's visitors should rejoice in the unbounded opportunity now at hand to study, admire and revel in this art of many textures.

Such distinction as Cézanne's rarely comes without pain and paradox. The artist whom we regard today as the greatest of the Moderns — with a certainty of belief that he, if alive, would surely have found maddening — made only late and painful progress in his own lifetime. He had to wait until he was 56 years old before he had his first one-man exhibition. He had the dapper Ambroise Vollard to thank for that — and the latter had reason to be grateful to Cézanne as well. The artist was to paint Vollard's portrait four years later: it is the most limpid of his later portraits, although Cézanne could not resist endowing even this prosperous Parisian picture-dealer with the hands of a Provençal peasant.

Even though the Establishment, to its discredit, found him all too easy to resist, his fellow artists were not slow to discern his genius. Degas, Monet, Gauguin and Renoir all bought Cézanne's paintings; Pissarro never doubted his greatness, even at the beginning, when he might have been forgiven for doing so; and Matisse bought the *Three Bathers* when he could least afford the price, declaring sweetly 37 years later that he still did not know the canvas "completely". Cézanne was less appreciative of his contemporaries: "I scorn all living painters, except Monet and Renoir," he once growled.

The splendidly hung Tate exhibition brings out Cézanne's tremendous diversity. As John Golding wrote recently in an exquisite essay in *The New York Review of Books*, there were very few static moments in Cézanne's career: with the various genres of painting so strongly differentiated in his mind, his art "was continually on the move". There is nothing, whether pastiche, portrait, still life or landscape, that he did not paint. From unduly violent beginnings he moved finally to *The Large Bathers*, strange, huge women of quite compelling mansuetude.

Yet in this array of canvas and composition, it is his still lifes which will perhaps endure best — with admiration undiminished — into the decades that follow our own. Nowhere is his industry more apparent, nor even his sense of symbol, than, for example, in the *Still Life With Apples* he completed in 1894. Go to the Tate and taste Cézanne's apples. Afterwards, there is no other fruit.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tighter rules for juries questioned

From Mr Louis Schaffer

Sir, There may be many good reasons for tightening the rules which allow persons called for jury service to avoid their obligations, but those given by Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary (report, February 7), make depressing reading.

He makes at least three unverifiable assumptions: that the increase in acquittals means that the guilty are getting away with it; that juries are "skewed" towards the working class and unemployed; that such jurors are often unsympathetic to the police (an odd attitude for a Labour politician!).

Is it not naive to suppose that a juror who is annoyed at the cancellation of the family's holiday or worried about the closing of his business will be more inclined to convict?

There may be other reasons for the increase in acquittals between 1986-87 and 1994-95. One is that it is indicative of fewer miscarriages of justice. Following the codes of practice introduced under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, such as the tape-recording of suspects' interviews, which may take place only at police stations, dishonest officers can no longer invent confessions or criminals claim that they have been "verballed" and so would be advised to plead guilty. This was not the case before the Act.

Another reason has been the greater disclosure by the police of unused material which may assist the defence.

If Mr Straw is really concerned at how juries reach their verdicts and not just trying to show that Labour is tough on crime, he should be advocating a change in the law to allow research into how juries arrive at their verdicts.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS SCHAFFER,
10 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
February 7.

From Professor Bernard S. Jackson

Sir, I fully endorse Professor Mike McConville's view ("Putting juries on trial", January 30) that there needs to be serious research into the jury system before new policy is made. I am less persuaded that such paltry evidence as exists justifies his own evaluation.

He refers *inter alia* to a 1992 shadow jury experiment (conducted in the Liverpool Crown Court) which generated a television programme, *Inside the Jury*, and suggests that this showed the jury deliberations to be "rational and thoughtful". Not everyone would agree.

At one point, with the jury divided four for conviction against eight for acquittal, one member of the minority observed that his side consisted of "four mature men" while the majority was made up of "four mature ladies together with all the youngsters".

At another point, frustrated at the apparent impasse, the same juror suggested a compromise: there were two charges, so he proposed "an honourable or dishonourable draw" — conviction on one charge, acquittal on the other. Rational and thoughtful?

In the Bible, the accuracy of the judicial function was legitimated by faith in divine inspiration: God was said to be "with you when you pass sentence" (II Chronicles xix, 6). In the present state of knowledge, our faith in the jury enjoys a similar status.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD S. JACKSON,
University of Liverpool,
Faculty of Law, Liverpool L69.

From Mr John Bunting

Sir, Most criminal business is transacted in the magistrates' courts. If Mr Straw really holds such an old-fashioned and patronising view of the working class and the unemployed as his comments seem to suggest, will new Labour, if elected, also take steps to ensure that these supposed undesirables are avoided when selections for the magistracy are made?

Yours truly,
J. BUNTING,
77 Green Lane, Buxton, Derbyshire.
February 7.

Floral tributes

From Mrs M. J. Miles

Sir, Perhaps because it is now so easy to order flowers over the phone this has increasingly become the custom, particularly when a tragedy occurs that touches the heart of the nation. Such tributes are, however, almost invariably left in their florists' wrappings, so that soggy paper and steamed-up plastic obscure the beauty of the blooms.

The overall effect is often depressing rather than uplifting. Perhaps Mr Brian North Lee's excellent suggestion (letter, February 1) that single flowers and small posies might be acceptable should be adopted also on more public occasions.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET MILES,
77 Marlborough Crescent,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Mrs Harriet Lear

Sir, A simple bunch of flowers instead of the often disastrous formal wreath, or even worse, plastic-wrapped bouquet, could be encouraged by a plea for "No *bought* flowers, please" in death notices.

Yours faithfully,
HARRIET LEAR,
Knowlands Farm, Barcombe,
Nr Lewes, East Sussex.

Uses of complementary medicine

From Dr Nick Argyle

Sir, I am delighted that you drew attention to the benefits provided by "alternative medicine" in your feature and leader yesterday (February 5; also articles, February 6). You are undoubtedly right to emphasise the importance of more well organised scientific studies, but where research has been done we need to ensure that the results are applied in general practice, for the benefit of both doctors and patients.

A study published a month ago in *Hypertension*, the journal of the American Heart Association, showed the regular practice of transcendental meditation (TM) reduced high blood pressure by about 11 points, without the side-effects of medication.

In all over 150 studies on TM have been published in scientific journals, showing that it helps with a wide range of stress-related disorders; that those who practise it have a significantly reduced need to go to the doctor (87 per cent reduced hospitalisation for heart disease in one study); and even that inflation-adjusted healthcare costs can be reduced by between 5 and 7 per cent annually over a period of up to seven years (*American Journal of Health Promotion*, January/February).

The problem is that doctors who are aware of the potential uses of TM and wish to apply it often find it difficult to secure a budget from the local health authority. The Government and Department of Health are rightly keen for there to be more health promotion; they should therefore ensure that GPs are informed about the very significant research results on transcendental meditation.

Yours faithfully,
NICK ARGYLE
(Consultant psychiatrist),
Northwick Park Hospital,
Psychiatric Department,
Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
February 6.

From the Secretary of the General Council and Register of Osteopaths

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttaford (February 6) cannot tar osteopathy with his broad-brush denigration of "alternative remedies". All professionally regulated osteopaths undergo extensive training in basic medical sciences, followed by appropriate clinical training. This enables them to identify cases which require immediate referral to a general medical practitioner.

The recent report of the Clinical Standards Advisory Group on Low Back Pain recommended that the optimum treatment for acute back pain was early manipulative therapy, including osteopathy. It also stated that

> there is no convincing evidence that … X-rays are necessary before manipulation and that … CT and MRA [scans] are unsuitable for use as diagnostic screening tests.

Well over 100 fundholding and some non-fundholding GPs have already contracted with osteopaths to provide treatment for their NHS patients and the number is increasing daily. Osteopaths are also employed in some NHS hospitals and community trusts.

The new General Osteopathic Council, the first members of which were announced last Thursday, will have similar responsibilities to those of the General Medical Council, whose president has unreservedly supported the osteopathy profession.

Yours truly,
DAVID C. WEEKS,
Secretary,
The General Council and
Register of Osteopaths,
56 London Street, Reading, Berkshire.
February 6.

From Ms Antoinette Sym

Sir, While I applaud the wider coverage given to the various healing systems that are available, I would take issue with your term "alternative". Most practitioners would prefer "complementary", and any genuine practitioner would never advise a patient to ignore their GP or forgo traditional treatment.

Traditional and complementary treatment should be able to work together for the benefit of the patient.

Yours faithfully,
ANTOINETTE SYM
(Spiritual healer),
17 Hungerford Road, N7.

Angolan peace needs

From the Director General of Save the Children

Sir, The UN Security Council meets on February 8 to decide whether to keep 7,500 peacekeeping troops in Angola. Their mandate will probably be renewed for a few more months, but the "peace process" they are overseeing is deeply bogged down.

The three key provisions of the Lusaka protocol (which created the present ceasefire between the Government and Unita rebels) have still not been implemented, 14 months after the signing. These are the demobilisation of 60,000 Unita troops; Unita to join a new government of reconciliation; and freedom of movement for people and goods throughout Angola.

In the intensive diplomatic round which must follow an extension of the UN forces' mandate much attention will be given to the first two provisions. Save the Children believes the third is equally vital.

With front lines snaking back and forth across the interior provinces, towns are cut off from their hinterlands, preventing farmers getting food to markets and essential consumer goods like salt, sugar, soap and cooking oil from getting into the countryside. Such simple exchanges could rapidly help people re-establish their livelihoods while waiting for the grant reconstruction plans which are dependent on peace.

Those of us assisting in re-establishing essential services such as primary healthcare have restricted access to populations across the lines; nor can the people come to the services. In a country where one child in five dies before its fifth birthday this is a disaster.

While the other aspects of the process may drag on for several months, freedom of movement in Angola could save many lives now and throughout this year.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE AARONSON,
Director General,
The Save the Children Fund,
17 Grove Lane, SE5.
February 6.

Scrap metal

From the Executive Director of the *British Metals Federation*

Sir, One can readily sympathise with the predicament of the new Environment Agency's inspectors who, to quote Nick Nuttall's report (February 7), are being offered "clip-on ties, ultrasonic stun-guns and courses in unarmed combat to deal with scrap metal merchants with big dogs". They will be in the front line of the battle to rid the nation of fly-tippers, law-defying dumpers of toxic waste and cowboy operators on the fringes of metals recycling.

However, the report regrettably perpetuates a long-held public misconception that scrap metal is the prerequisite of such people. In fact metals recycling is a thriving multi-billion pound industry in the UK and arguably the most environmentally responsible. In 1995 it transformed more than ten million tonnes of redundant ferrous metals into furnace feed for steelworks and foundries; exports topped four million tonnes. Furthermore, the UK non-ferrous metals recycling industry is worth an estimated £3 billion annually.

If responsible metals recycling businesses — about 98 per cent of the industry — employ rottweilers, it is solely to deter thefts of their valuable equipment and materials by the miscreant 2 per cent the agency is setting out to eradicate.

As far as the members of this federation are concerned, the sooner the inspectors unholster their stun-guns, the better.

Yours etc,
RICK WILCOX,
Executive Director,
British Metals Federation,
16 High Street, Brampton,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.
February 7.

An upward trend

From the Bishop of Maidstone

Sir, In your report on matters to come before the forthcoming meeting of the General Synod ("Worshippers to be asked for 5 per cent of earnings", February 2), your correspondent spoke of "dwindling congregations".

You might be interested to know that congregations in the Archbishop's own diocese of Canterbury "dwindled" upwards last year to the tune of some 400 more worshippers on an average Sunday, and the same upward "dwindling" also took place in several other dioceses that I can name.

I say "several" simply because I have, thus far, only checked with a few.

Yours,
†GAVIN MAIDSTONE,
Bishop's House,
Pett Lane,
Charing, Ashford, Kent.
February 2.

Living languages

From Mr Hugh Caldwell

Sir, Esperanto lives, as Mr Norman Berdichevsky (letter, January 27; see also letter, February 6) says; it lives, though, on the life-support machine supplied by language hobbyists.

I happened to be in a restaurant in Belgrade, in happier times, when it was host to a conference of Esperantists. A table of enthusiasts was enjoying a conversation in their hobby-language. When the waiter approached, they all switched immediately to English.

German would have done as well, but Esperanto would have been useless, of course.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH CALDWELL,
Clos du Cinquantenaire 2-B8,
Brussels B-1040.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Australian stance on World Cup

From Senator John Faulkner, Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories, Australia

Sir, I am writing to convey my anger, and that of the Australian people, at the sentiments expressed in your editorial of February 6 (see also letter, February 7).

To brand the decision of the Australian Cricket Board not to send the Australian team to Colombo for their World Cup match against Sri Lanka as "craven" is totally unjustified and grossly unfair to everyone who has been involved in this difficult decision, most importantly the Australian team members and their families.

The Australian Cricket Board and the players are well aware of the impact of their decision on the World Cup tournament. They have decided only with the greatest reluctance not to play in Colombo in view of the very real and serious security risks posed by the current situation in Sri Lanka. Their decision has the full support and understanding of the Australian Government and people. You will be aware that the West Indies team has independently reached the same decision.

I reject utterly your assertion that the Australian players have "acted neither with courage nor with diplomacy" on the basis that "they have upset the organisation of a complex tournament and handed a propaganda victory to the murderous Tamil rebels . . ." They are quite understandably concerned about their safety. The players' concerns are shared by their families and their many supporters. The Australian Cricket Board has quite rightly put the team's welfare ahead of other considerations in reaching the decision not to play in Colombo at this time.

Yours etc,
JOHN FAULKNER,
Minister for the Environment,
Sport and Territories,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia.
February 7.

From Dr Daya Pandita-Gunawardena

Sir, The cricket-loving people of Sri Lanka, almost the whole of the island, eagerly await a change of heart and of mind by the Australian and West Indian cricket authorities. Our recent good performances abroad and the World Cup, which is the greatest sporting event in Sri Lanka, have generated tremendous enthusiasm and interest. I and many millions are crying out for a reinstatement of the full World Cup programme. The games against the Australians and West Indians would be two of the finest first-round matches in the tournament.

The Sri Lankan authorities, acknowledging the anxieties of the visiting cricketing ambassadors, have gone to extraordinary lengths to provide the kind of security usually reserved for visiting heads of state.

Disruption to the programme under these circumstances may well create a dangerous precedent. I sincerely hope that all four matches will be played in Sri Lanka as scheduled.

Yours faithfully,
DAYA PANDITA-
GUNAWARDENA
(Sri Lankan Cricket Board
Representative in the UK),
132 Foxley Lane, Purley, Surrey.

A new royal yacht

From the Secretary General of the Royal Yachting Association

Sir, The proposed royal sail training ship ("Is this the new *Britannia*?" Weekend, February 3) would promote our maritime heritage in a quite outstanding manner. She would project a real presence, in harbour and at sea, in a thoroughly modern yet environmentally sensitive way.

The imaginative concept of Queen's cadets from the Commonwealth as well as Britain would provide young people with an unforgettable experience. The project would be a marvellous symbol of British innovation and character as we reach the end of this millennium. The Head of State, diplomatic, commercial and youth development roles are all embraced by the concept. I very much hope that it proceeds.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN DUCHESNE,
Secretary General,
Royal Yachting Association,
RYA House,
Romsey Road,
Eastleigh, Hampshire.
February 3.

Naval engagement

From Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch

Sir, A convoy (letters, February 7) is a convoy, wherever (as P. G. Wodehouse said of a hellhound) you slice it. And the essence of convoy is *escort*.

Who, may one ask, is to escort the European Community?

And why, in time of peace, which the Community is intended to ensure, model it on a convoy, which is the most inefficient way of using available shipping, justifiable only in war?

Yours faithfully,
IAN McGEOCH,
Kirk Deighton House,
Kirk Deighton,
Wetherby, West Yorkshire.
February 7.

هكذا فن الرحل

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
February 7: By Command of The Queen, the Earl of Courtown (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening upon the Departure of The Duchess of Kent for India and bade farewell to Her Royal Highness on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 7: The Prince Edward this evening attended the opening night of "*Late Joys*" at the Players' Theatre, the Arches, Villiers Street, London WC2, at the start of the theatre's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 7: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, this morning visited the 1st Battalion at Oakington Barracks, Cambridge.

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the new Peterborough Environment Centre and Eco House, and viewed an exhibition of the work of the Peterborough Environment City Trust at Westgate, Peterborough, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 7: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Hampshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Fagan).

His Royal Highness opened the Science Centre at Peter Symonds' College, Owens Road, and afterwards visited Bendicks (Mayfair) Limited at Moorside Road, Winchester.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
February 7: The Duke of Kent, Patron, British Menswear Guild, this morning visited Aquascutum Limited, Trafalgar Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire (Mr John Lowther).

His Royal Highness later visited Ilmor Engineering Limited, Quarry Road, Brixworth, and Foilwraps Flexible Packaging Limited, Moulton Park Industrial Estate, Northampton, Northamptonshire.

Colonel John Stewart was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, UNICEF, this evening departed London Heathrow Airport for New Delhi, India.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will dine with the High Commissioner for New Zealand at 43 Chelsea Square, London SW3, at 8.00.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

The Middlesex Hospital

A special service of Celebration and Dedication to mark the 250th anniversary of the Middlesex Hospital will be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields at 12.30pm on May 9, 1996. All past and present staff are invited to apply in writing for tickets which can be obtained from the Administration Department, Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London, W1N 8AA or by telephoning 0171-380 9944 (Answerphone). Please note the closing date for applications will be April 9, 1996. Transport will be available from the Church to the hospital (upon request) where lunch will be served.

Luncheons

Commonwealth Secretariat

Mr John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given yesterday at Marlborough House by Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

Tallow Chandlers' Company

Mr M.M.L. Sutcliffe, Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, presented the company's awards to City and Guilds Vocation Education Students at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. Sir Michael Heron, Chairman of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, also spoke.

Reception

Sternberg Centre for Judaism

The High Commissioner for India, Dr L.M. Singhvi, planted a tree at the Sternberg Centre for Judaism on Monday to mark the Jewish new year for trees and presented a bust of Mahatma Gandhi to Sir Sigmund Sternberg. The High Commissioner for South Africa, Mr Mendi Msimang was present.

Birthdays today

Lord Cameron, KT, 96; Professor Averil Cameron, Warden, Keble College, Oxford, 56; Miss Rachel Cusk, author, 29; Sir David Elliott, civil servant, 66; Mr Osian Ellis, harpist, 68; Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy, 83; Mr Harman Grisewood, former chief assistant to the director-general, BBC, 90; Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, 81; Lady Howe of Aberavon, chairman, Broadcasting Standards Council, 64; Lord Jakobovits, 75; Mrs Diana Ladas, former Headmistress, Heathfield School, 83; Professor Ann Lambton, Emeritus Professor of Persian, London University, 84; Mr Murray Lawrence, former chairman, Lloyd's, 61; Mr Jack Lemmon, actor, 71; Mr Roger Lloyd Pack, actor, 52; Miss Morag Macdonald, former company secretary, Post Office, 49; Sir Francis McWilliams, former Lord Mayor of London, 70; Sir Kenneth Maddocks, former governor, Fiji, 89; Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, 87; Mr Alexander P. Papamarkou, international financier, 66; Dr June Paterson-Brown, former chief commissioner, Girl Guides Association, 64; Lord Rayne, 78; Dame Laurie Salas, UN worker, 74; Sir Richard Southern, former President, St John's College, Oxford, 84; Mr G.J. Strowger, former managing director, Thorn Electrical Industries, 80; Mr Richard Tracey, MP, 53; the Rev Dr John Tudor, former superintendent minister, Westminster Central Hall, 66; Mr John Williams, composer of film scores, 64.

GILL ALLEN

Princess Michael of Kent stands by a plaque commemorating her formal opening yesterday of the new Well Woman Centre at the Cromwell Hospital, London

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Burton, scholar, Lindley, Leicestershire, 1577; Jean André Deluc, geologist, Geneva, 1727; John Ruskin, writer, artist and social reformer, London, 1819; William Sherman, Union general in American Civil War, Lancaster, Ohio, 1820; Henry Walter Bates, naturalist and explorer, Leicester, 1825; Jules Verne, novelist, Nantes, 1828; Dmitri Mendeleyev, chemist, Tobolsk, Russia, 1834; Martin Buber, philosopher, Vienna, 1878; Dame Edith Evans, actress, London, 1888; King Vidor, film director, Galveston, Texas, 1894; James Dean, actor, Marian, Indiana, 1931.

DEATHS: Mary Queen of Scots, executed at Fotheringay Castle, Northamptonshire, 1587; Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia 1682-1725, St Petersburg, 1725; Aaron Hall, poet and dramatist, London, 1750; Robert Southwell Bourke, 6th Earl of Mayo, Viceroy of India 1869-72, assassinated at Port Blair, Andaman Islands, 1872; Berthold Auerbach, novelist, Cannes, France, 1882; R.M. Ballantyne, novelist, Rome, 1894; Prince Peter Kropotkin, geographer and anarchist, Dmitrov, Russia, 1921; William Bateson, biologist and geneticist, Merton, Surrey, 1926; Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, architect, London, 1960.

Rioting and looting followed a peaceful demonstration of the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, London, 1886.

Kenneth Robinson, health minister, announced that cigarette advertising was to be banned from British television, 1965.

Fourteen British mercenaries were executed by firing squad in Angola, 1976.

Shergar, the Aga Khan's Derby winner, was kidnapped from a stable in Co Kildare and a £2 million ransom was demanded, 1983.

Dinner

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Mr F.A. Osborn, Mr Rodney F. Chase and Mr Georges Kremlis were the speakers.

Appointment

Mr Reggie Norton to be chairman of Anti-Slavery International in succession to Mr Michael Harris.

Memorial services

Mr David Nickerson

Princess Michael of Kent attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr David George François Nickerson, antiques dealer, held yesterday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Rev Christopher Courtauld officiated, assisted by the Ven Derek Hayward. Canon Michael McLean led the prayers.

Mr Mark Nickerson, brother, read the lesson. Mr Jeremy Pilcher read from *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran and Sir Timothy Ackroyd read Rupert Brooke's *The Fish*. Sir John Blofeld gave an address. Among others present were:

Mrs Nickerson (widow), Mrs George Nickerson (mother), Mr and Mrs William Nickerson and Mr and Mrs James Nickerson (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Neville Wakefield (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Mark Nickerson (sister-in-law), Miss Emma Nickerson, Miss Caroline Nickerson, Mr and Mrs Edward Jewson, Viscount and Viscountess Hood, the Hon Henry and Mrs Hood, the Hon John and Mrs Hood, the Hon James Hood, Lord and Lady Northbourne, Mr and Mrs Carroll MacNamara, Miss F MacNamara, Miss Ellen MacNamara, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Carr, Mrs Timothy Denny.

The Countess of Iveagh, Earl and Countess Ferrers, Judith Countess Bathurst, Ann Countess of Coventry, Patricia Countess Jellicoe, Earl and Countess Kimberley, Earl Sondes, Lady Mark Fitzalan Howard, Viscount and Viscountess Strathallan, Lord Ogilvy, Lord and Lady Clinton, Anne Lady Elton, Lord and Lady Eden of Winton, Lord and Lady Birdwood, Lady Aberdare, Lady Richardson of Duntisbourne, Mr Tim Benton, MP, Lady Mirabel Kelly, Lady Maryel de Wichfield, Lady Mary Colman, Lady Henrietta Bathurst, the Hon Mrs Julia Fortescue, the Hon Mrs Bevan, the Hon Julia Stonor.

The Hon Lady Hastings, the Hon John Allsopp, the Hon Mrs Christopher McLaren, the Hon Raymond Bonham Carter, the Hon Michael and Mrs Spring Rice, the Hon Mrs Myddelton, the Hon Michael and Mrs Vaughan, the Hon Mrs David Bathurst, Sir Francis and Lady Dashwood, Caroline Lady Nuttall, Sir Geoffrey Shakerley, Sir Humphry Wakefield, Sir James Harvie-Watt, Sir John Gooch, Sir Ian and Lady Rankin, Lady Crofton, Lady Gage, Lady Showering, Sir Peter Wakefield, Lady Wakefield, Sir Mark Weinberg, Sir Hugh and Lady Leggatt, Lady Sowrey, Lady Warner, Lady Blofeld, Lady Elton, Lady Gage, Mr David and Lady Mary Russell, Mr George and Lady Gillian Kertesz.

Baroness Bentinck, Baroness Bachofen, Comtesse de Roblen, Countess Borchgrave, Mr Tim Rathbone, MP, and Mrs Rathbone, Mrs J Pilcher, Ms Jane Joll, Major and Mrs Vere Fane, Mr C Chalcraft, Mr Francis Sitwell, Mr and Mrs Michael Falcon, Major John Perkins, Mr and Mrs Bobby Nicolle, Major T G W Potts, Mr and Mrs John Yorke, Mr Jack Sykes, Mr Michael MacKinlay MacLeod, Mrs M Redfern, Mr and Mrs Andrew Buxton, Miss Nicola Buxton, Mr Desmond McSweeny, Mrs Jane Lloyd Owen, Mrs April Partridge, Mr and Mrs J Watcyn Lewis, Miss Katy Pertwee, Mr and Mrs A Guthrie, Mr Peter Dixon, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs George West, Mr and Mrs Timothy Elwes, Mr Duncan Ward, Mr William Clegg, Mrs Andrew Clowes, Mrs Walter Goetz, Mr Richard W Jewson, Mr and Mrs Clive Hardcastle, Mr Peter Roberts.

Dr Oliver Impey, Mrs T Miller-Sterling, Mr Philip Astley-Jones, Mr and Mrs Robert Fox, Mr Anthony Coleridge, Mr Miles Napier, Mrs Dorothy Cory-Wright, Mr A Paul, Mr and Mrs David Lloyd Owen, Mr Miles Huntington-Whiteley, Mr and Mrs Philip Wroughton, Mr Robie Uniacke, Mr Barry Sainsbury, Mrs David Lumsden, Mr Mark Waddington, Mr and Mrs Adrian Bridgewater, Mrs C d'Abo, Mr and Mrs Martin Findlay, Mr and Mrs Tom Craig, Mr Nicholas Norton, Mr Michael Goedhuis, Mrs Fiona Armstrong, Mr and Mrs Henry Blofeld, Mr Frank Berendt, Mr Timothy de Zoete, Mr and Mrs Peter Maitland, Mr Matthew Eckersley, Mr Colin Campbell, Mr and Mrs Jonathan Cavendish.

Mr and Mrs Timothy Hill, Mr Victor Levine, Mr Edward Nelson, Mr and Mrs John Hall, Mr and Mrs Paul Nix, Mr and Mrs Patrick Lawrence, Mr G Howard, Mrs J Elson, Mr and Mrs Michael Parkin, Mr R Titian, Mr Trevor Potts, Mr Michael Inchbald, Mr and Mrs Robin Kern, Mr R Courtenay, Mr Hugo Charlton, Mr Arthur James, Mr L Stopford Sackville, Mrs Mary Stoddart, Mr A Ginsberg, Mr Charles Cator, Major Michael Parker, Mr Edric van Underberg, Mr and Mrs Pierrot Roberti, Mr K Digby Jones, Mr and Mrs J Janson, Mr David Batchelor, Mr and Mrs Hamish Bullough, Mr Richard Came, Mr and Mrs David Cargill, Mr Andrew Ackroyd, Mr Christopher Gibbs, Mr Hugh St Clair, Mrs R St Clair, Mr R Phillips, Mr Didier le Blanc, Mr E Clarke.

Mr Jonathon Pilkington, Ms Catherine Grant Peterkin, Mr Gerald Kenyon, Mr Guy Timpson, Mr and Mrs Hugh Lang, Mr Christopher Vane-Percy, Mr Alistair Waddell, Miss P d'Erlanger, Mrs C Fane, Mr Christopher Hawkins Phillips, Mr and Mrs Anthony Salmon, Miss J Constable-Maxwell, Mrs J Darby, Mr and Mrs John Holmes, Mr Raymond O'Shea, Mr and Mrs David Acland, Mrs Edward Nelson, Mrs G Gough, Mr Martin Lane Fox, Mr Simon Courtauld, Mr Christopher Wood, Mr David Prince, Mr Peter Lucas, Mr Ken Gill, Mr and Mrs Michael Clark, the Rev K and Mrs Chalcraft, Mr J Bamford, Mr and Mrs David McCosh, Captain Francis Burne.

Mr Alan Heber-Percy, Mr Henry Nevill, Mr Ian Cameron, Mr and Mrs Bryan Harris, Mr Christopher McLaren, Mrs Max Harari, Mrs M MacCarthy, Mr Desmond MacCarthy, Mrs P Schroder, Mrs Peter Harris, Mr and Mrs Christopher Clarke, Mrs John Partridge, Mrs Christopher Penn, Mrs J Geddes, Mr and Mrs William Maitland, Mrs Helen Popper, Ms Anne Minoprio, Mr and Mrs Peter Blond, Mr and Mrs Antony Snow, Mr and Mrs Anthony Sykes, Mrs B Frost, Mr R Frost, Mr and Mrs I McAllister, Mr James Lindsay, Mr A Denny, Ms Nancy Mitchell, Mr J May, Mr A Macmillan.

Mr and Mrs G Sorrell, Mr John Macmillan, Mr and Mrs Mark Stratton, Mrs Peter Evans Lombe, Mr John Hill, Mrs Mark Evans, Mr and Mrs Richard Neville-Rolfe, Mr and Mrs Robin Don, Miss C Myddelton, Mr Thomas Heneage, Mr Michael Pick, Mrs John Urwin, Mr Rupert Hastie, Mr and Mrs Mark Burrell, Ms Charlotte Blofeld, Mrs S Wood, Mr and Mrs George Lane.

Mr Rex Cooper (chairman, Mallett's) and Mrs Cooper with Mr L Synge (managing director) and other members of staff; Mr Richard de Pelet (Christie's), Mr Paul Whitfield (Sotheby's), Mrs Elaine Dean (BADA), Mr Anthony Smith (Partridge Fine Arts), Mr John Morton-Morris (Hazlitt Gooden & Fox), Mr Anthony Law (*Apollo*), Mr Richard I Robinson (Craiffern Corporate Consultants), and Mr P MacCarthy O'Hea (TGWU).

Canon Frederick Tindall

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Canon Frederick Tindall was held yesterday in Salisbury Cathedral. Canon Jeremy Davies, precentor, officiated and Canon Phillip Roberts led the prayers.

Canon John Thurmer and the Rev David Newman read the lessons.

The Right Rev Keith Benzies, Bishop of Antsiranana, gave an address and the Very Rev the Hon Hugh Dickinson, Dean of Salisbury, pronounced the blessing.

Latest wills

Mr David Francis Healy, of Richmond, Surrey, the American-born actor, who won the Olivier Award for Actor of the Year in a Supporting Role for his performance as Nicely-Nicely Johnson in the National Theatre production of *Guys and Dolls*, left estate valued at £149,860 net.

Mrs Ann Livermore, of Sandycombe Lodge, St Margarets, Twickenham, west London, who restored Sandycombe Lodge, designed by J.M.W. Turner (who lived there from 1812 to 1826), and wrote studies of the artist's appreciation of music and verse, left estate valued at £160,804 net.

Mrs Joan Cicely Conway, of Turville, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £6,149,556 net.
She left £3,000 to the Jewish Board of Guardians for Relief of the Jewish Poor.

Mr Leslie James Wilson, of Somerton, Somerset, managing director of Lulsgate Airport, Bristol, left estate valued at £231,852 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Margaret Katherine Lumsden Boyle, of Matfield, Kent £623,304.

Mrs Betty Browne, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.......... £659,205.

Mr Reginald Edward Cave, of Slough, Berkshire.......... £623,277.

Marriages

Mr F.E.J. Law and Miss K.J. Parker

The marriage took place quietly on February 3, 1996, at Morden Cottage Register Office, London, of Mr Francis Law, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs John Law, of Felixstowe, Suffolk, and Miss Karen Parker, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs William Parker, of East London, South Africa.

Brigadier A.H. Parker Bowles and Mrs R.A. Pitman

The marriage took place yesterday in London between Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, OBE, and Mrs Rosemary Pitman.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Norman Price, Precentor of St Edmundsbury Cathedral (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Vicar, Par (Truro).

The Rev Barry Rose, Vicar, Halstead w Greenstead Green: to be *also* Rural Dean of Hinckford (Chelmsford).

The Rev Stephen Sealy, Precentor of Canterbury Cathedral (Canterbury): to be Vicar, Pembury (Rochester).

The Rev Anthony Ward, Curate, Holy Trinity w St John, Leicester (Leicester): to be Vicar, Rainham w Wennington (Chelmsford).

The Rev Dennis Wight, Rector, Stoke Prior, Wychbold and Upton Warren: to be *also* Rural Dean of Droitwich (Worcester).

Resignations and retirements

The Ven Raymond Ravenscroft, Archdeacon of Cornwall, diocese Truro: to retire September 30.

The Rev David Baker, Rector, Fetcham (Guildford): to retire February 29.

The Rev Sally Davies, Assistant Curate, St Paul, East Molesey (Guildford): resigned January 14.

The Rev Frank Harris, Rector, Blisland w St Breward (Truro): to retire March 31.

The Rev Graham Hodge, Rector, Chawton and Farringdon (Winchester): to retire March 31.

The Rev Harry Jackson, Rector, Ash (Guildford): to retire April 7.

Prebendary Derrik Jenkyns, Vicar, St Mary, Kington; St Thomas a Becket, Huntington; St Stephen, Old Radnor; St Mary, Kinnerton; and St Michael and All Angels, Knill (Hereford) and a Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral: to retire April 30 and be apppointed a Prebendary Emeritus.

The Rev Kenneth Newbon, Rector, St Mary Magdalene, Eardisley; St Silas, Bollingham and Willersley; St Mary, Brilley; St Michael, Michaelchurch; St Peter and St Paul, Whitney; and St Michael and All Angels, Winforton (Hereford): to retire March 31.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.W. Colborne-Malpas and Miss C.S.B. Caviezel

The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mrs David St Leger Parsons, of London, and the late Mr J.F. Colborne-Malpas, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Mrs Rose-Marie Caviezel-Friedli, of Erlenbach (ZH), Switzerland.

Dr G.G.M. Edelsten and Miss J.F. Faulkner

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place shortly, between Geoffrey Edelsten, of Winchester, and Julie Faulkner, of East Stratton, Hampshire.

Mr J.W. Galvin Wright and Miss C.L. Ross

The engagement is announced between Jonathon William, younger son of Mr Jeffrey Galvin Wright, of Oxshott, Surrey, and Mrs David Gordon, of Lower Kingswood, Surrey, and Charlotte Lucia, younger daughter of Mr John Ross, of Stogumber, Somerset, and Mrs Regina Ross, of Glenavon Park, Bristol.

Mr S.P.O. Hudson and Miss S. Ewers

The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr David Hudson, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Rosemary Hudson, of London, W2, and Sonja, only daughter of Herr and Frau Wolf-Dieter Ewers, of Paderborn, Germany.

Mr J.M. Kenny and Miss K. Douglass

The engagement is announced between Justin, eldest son of Arthur Kenny and Jennette Kenny, of Newton St John, Norfolk, and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Douglass, of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, USA.

Mr A.G. Kiernan and Miss A.S. Goodwin

The engagement is announced between Alexander Geoffrey, elder son of the late Mr G.P. Kiernan and of Mrs A.C. Crane, and stepson of Mr A.C. Crane, of Cockermouth, Cumbria, and Alexandra Shearer, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Goodwin, of Cockermouth, Cumbria, and Zwolle, the Netherlands.

Count Peter Szápáry and Miss S. van Kleef

The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Count and Countess László Szápáry, of Dobersberg, Austria, and Sylvia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ton van Kleef, of Bilthoven, The Netherlands.

Mr M.J.B. Watson and Mrs C.M. Stevenson

The engagement is announced between Michael Watson and Lottie Stevenson.

University news

Cambridge

Fitzwilliam College

The following have been elected into Fellowships in Class C from October 1:

Stuart James McLelland, BSc (Hull), currently research student at Leeds University, for the purpose of research in geography;

Emma Kathrine Widdis, MPhil (Peterhouse), currently research student at the Department of Slavonic Studies, Cambridge, for the purpose of research in Slavonic Studies.

Ulster

The university is to award Honorary Degrees to the following:

Mr Paul Costelloe, Irish fashion designer (D Litt).

Mr Paddy Devlin, writer, trade unionist and politician (DUniv).

Ms Barbara Hosking, Director of Westcountry Television and radio broadcaster (DUniv).

Dr Alan Howard, authority on obesity and coronary heart disease (DSc).

Mr James McGuigan, for long-standing service to Medical Laboratory Science (MSc).

Dr Ann Reynolds, Chancellor of the City University of New York (DSc).

Dr Brendan Hegarty, Senior Vice-President, Seagate Technology (DSc).

In 1996, the university is signalling its interest in good education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels by awarding Honorary Degrees to the following exemplars in education:

Dr Rajamal Devadas, Chancellor, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (DSc); Mr Eric Boyd, Head of Music Services, North-Eastern Education & Library Board (MA); Mrs Denise Ferran, Art and Design Education Officer, Ulster Museum (MEA); Ms Carmel Gallagher, NI Curriculum Council Professional Officer (MEd); Ms Roisin Skeffington, primary school teacher, Belfast (MEd); Dr Nicholas Todd, Head of Mathematics, Banbridge Academy (MSc).

BMDS: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The kingdom we are given is unshakeable; let us therefore give thanks to God for it, and so worship God as he would be worshipped, with reverence and awe.
Hebrews 12 : 28 (REB)

BIRTHS

BABINGTON - On February 6th, to Lin (née Garner) and Ian, their long awaited son, Jack. Many thanks to the medical team. Congratulations to the proud parents.

BIDDULPH - To Rosa and Michael, on 1st February at Exeter, twin sons, Owain Thomas and Louis John, brothers for Joseph, Olivia, Max and Theo.

CHAPPELL - On 7th February, to Ann and Paul, a daughter, Emily Claire, a sister for William, Victoria and Jonathan.

DAY - On 1st February 1996 at The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, to Steven and Sarah, a beautiful daughter, Harriet Sarah.

FAWCETT - On 24th January, to Fiona (née Westwater) and Richard, a son, Bill George and a daughter, Rosie Martha.

MOORE - On January 24th, to Jane (née Clarke) and Nicholas, a daughter, Charlotte Sarah, a sister for Natasha.

RAMPTON - On January 8th, 1996, to Elizabeth (née Garner) and Christopher, a son (Jack Anthony).

ROBERT - On February 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Virginie (née Bachler) and Philippe, a beautiful daughter, Constance.

SCOTT - Christian and Corrin proudly presented Gretel with a brother, Otto Christian, on 25th January 1996.

TURTON - On January 30th, in London, to Jane (née Neill) and Graham, a daughter, Katie Joan Kelso, a sister for Alexander.

WHITFIELD - On February 6th at University College Hospital, London, to Emma (née Tarring) and Mark, a daughter, Alice Charlotte.

WILKINS - On February 5th, in Exeter, to Michelle and Peter, a daughter, Zoe.

YAN - On 3rd February 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Azreena and Mohamed, a son, Imran Mohamed, the brother for Sultana. Thanks to the staff & P. Armstrong.

DEATHS

ARMSTRONG - On 5th February 1996 in Salisbury Hospital, Diana Frances of Godley Road, Harnham, Salisbury. Beloved wife of John and mother of Duncan, Elizabeth and Andrew. Funeral Service at St Thomas' Church, Salisbury on Tuesday 13th February 1996 at 1.30 pm. Floral tributes c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors, Griffin House, 65 Winchester Street, Salisbury, Wilts. Tel: (01722) 413136.

BARANDON - Irene Amelia (née O'Sullivan) Secretary to Dr. Edith Ford and Herbert F. Collins at The British American Teacher Exchange Program of the ESU and in Hollywood. Executive Secretary to Frank Mancuso, Chairman and CEO of Paramount Pictures, died suddenly December 14th. Survived by husband of 36 years John.

BONDY - Mrs Esther Bondy passed away on the 6th February. Mourned by her husband Professor A. Bondy and daughter Dr. S.I. Bondy.

BRADING - Keith, C.B., M.B.E., on February 2nd 1996 peacefully, much loved husband of Mary, formerly Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. Private family cremation will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Grays Inn Chapel on Wednesday 14th February at 5 pm. No flowers please but donations to R.N.L.I. would be much appreciated.

BUSHELL - Ronald David Leslie suddenly on February 2nd, beloved husband of Joyce and dearest father of Helen. Funeral Service at Enfield Crematorium on Monday February 12th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation.

COULBORN - William Alfred Lindsay of Shropham, Norfolk aged 86 years, devoted husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service on Tuesday February 13th at The City of Norwich (Earlham) Crematorium at 12 noon. Floral sprays only if desired to R.J. Bertram and Son Funeral Directors, Wymondham, Norfolk.

CUMINGS - On February 5th, at Highlands House Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells, Alfred Edwin aged 94. Dearly loved husband of the late Betty and much loved father of June and Shirley. Funeral at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium, February 14th at 11.30 am. Flowers to E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells.

EVANS - On 6th February 1996 at Cheltenham General Hospital, Isobel Stewart passed away with serenity, aged 82 years. Much beloved wife of Rev. Emyr Evans. The Funeral Service will take place at Cheltenham Crematorium on Wednesday 14th February at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Multiple Sclerosis c/o Selim Smith & Co. Ltd., 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, Glos.

FRANKLIN - On Tuesday February 6th 1996, peacefully at home in Seaford, George Brian Franklin B.D.S. aged 65, beloved husband of Valerie and much loved father to Paul, Karen, Justin and Tara. Service at St Leonard's Church, Seaford, on Thursday February 15th at 1pm, followed by private burial. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Leukaemia Research. Enquiries and donations c/o Lee Goacher, Seaford and Newhaven Funeral Service, 22 Sutton Road, Seaford, tel: (01323) 893889.

GODWIN - On 3rd February, Lt. Commander Charles Godwin D.S.C. RN. Husband of the late Lydia and much loved father of Julia. Service of Thanksgiving at The Parish Church of St Philip and St James, Norton St Philip, Bath on Monday, 19th February at 2.30 pm.

JOHNSTON - On February 5th 1996, J.W.J. (Jenny) Findlay, beloved wife of J.R.Y. Johnston (Bert), passed away peacefully.

KIRBY - On February 4th 1996 in the loving care of Farnborough Hospital, Kent, Ethel Kate Kirby of Bromley, Kent, much loved widow of Richard and mother of Barbara. Funeral at Beckenham Crematorium on Tuesday February 13th at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Asthma Society or Brompton Hospital.

LEE - Dr. W.R. (Bill), died peacefully on 5th February 1996, at Lindum House Nursing Home, Beverley, after a short illness. Much loved husband of Zdena, father of Miriam and Monica, brother of Margaret and grandfather of Gemma, Lucy and Ben. Friend, colleague and inspiration to scores around the world who taught and studied the English Language. Funeral at the Crematorium, Chanterlands Avenue, Hull, 11.30 am Monday 12th February. Funeral Directors, Frank Stephenson & Son, Beverley, tel: (01482) 881367. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Princess Alice Hospice, Esher, Surrey or Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Memorial Service will be held in London later in the year.

LEIGH - Valerie. Beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Died at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol on Sunday 4th February 1996 after a sudden illness. Graceful in her death as she had been all her life. She will be deeply missed by all her family and her many friends. Funeral will be held at Cheltenham Crematorium on Monday 12th February at 11.30 am. Enquiries and flowers to Mason & Stokes, Cheltenham (tel: 01242 224877).

LOUDON - Jonkheer John Hugo K.B.E. peacefully in Holland on 4th February 1996. Beloved husband of Charlotte and beloved father of John, Frederick and George. Funeral strictly private. Memorial Service in London on a date to be announced.

LOVELUCK - Major John Burton RA ret'd, aged 84 years. Peacefully on 5th February 1996 at St Margaret's Somerset Hospice, Taunton. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving on Monday February 26th at 2.30 pm at St Stephen's Church, Winsham. Donations if desired to St Margaret's Hospice.

MEYER - On February 6th Jean Rosalie, dearly loved wife of Fred, beloved mother of Steven and John and grandmother of Oliver. Funeral Service Exeter and Devon Crematorium Friday February 9th at 4.15 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Age Concern (Exeter) c/o Mitchell Funeral Services, King William Street, Exeter, EX4 6PD.

NOTT - Brigadier Donald Harley DSO OBE MC DL. The Worcestershire Regiment (retd.), on 6th February 1996 peacefully at home in his 88th year. Gallant soldier, talented artist and dearly loved and loving family man. The funeral will take place privately, family flowers only please. Donations in his memory, if desired, for The Worcestershire Regiment Museum, c/o E.J. Gunnery & Son, 68 Ombersley Road, Worcester WR3 7EU. Thanksgiving Service to be announced later.

ROSS - Mary Pamela, daughter of John Stuart Ross FRCS, died peacefully on 3rd February 1996, aged 88, at Mockley Manor Nursing Home, Ullenhall, after a long illness. Funeral Service will take place at St Mary the Virgin, Ullenhall, on Wednesday, 14th February, at 2.30 pm, followed by cremation. Interment at St James, Chipping Campden on Monday, 19th February, at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Barnardos, c/o A.E. Bennett & Sons, 34 Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6EE.

TANDY - Of Ifield, Crawley, Sussex. David John, beloved husband of Catharine, father of Philippa and Elizabeth. Service at The Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth on Tuesday 13th February at 12 noon. All enquiries to Francis Chappell, tel: (01293) 521407.

TITTERINGTON - Peacefully at Eastern General Hospital, Edinburgh on February 5th 1996. Dr. Hilary Titterington, formerly of Sale, Cheshire, beloved wife of the late Edward Maclachlan and mother of A. Claire Maclachlan. Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel on Saturday February 10th at 10.30 am, followed by interment at Mortonhall Cemetery at 11.15 am.

WIGRAM - Derek Roland, died peacefully on February 6th. Beloved husband of Catharine. Service at St Mary's Church, Swardeston, on Tuesday February 13th at 2.30pm and at St Mary's Church, Westwood, on Friday April 19th at 2.30pm. No flowers please, but any donations to Lee Abbey via the family or the Directors, Peter Taylor, (01603) 760787.

YEATMAN - Mary Barbara. On February 7th 1996, peacefully in Dorchester, formerly of Stock House, aged 83 years. Private burial of ashes in Stock Churchyard.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FARNELL - (née Quin), A Memorial Service for Angela, Founder Elderly Accommodation Counsel, will be held at Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street - Soho, on Thursday February 22nd 1996 at 3 pm.

FLETCHER - A Memorial Service for Professor Charles Fletcher will be held at 3 pm on Thursday 21st March in the Crypt Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

KNOWLING - In ever-loving memory of Ellen, wife of the Rev. Dr. Knowling, Canon of Durham. February 8th 1914.

LOOMBE - Claude C.M.G. Today would have been our Diamond Wedding, my deepest love for always. Zoë.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

ORTON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Henry Ralph Orton will be held at St Mary's Hook-with-Warsash Church, on Friday, March 1st, at 11 am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TRUELOVE - Kathleen Diana (Kay), Raymond, Simon and David wish to thank sincerely all our friends and colleagues for your letters and cards of sympathy, for your beautiful floral tributes and generous donations to the Diamond Riding Centre for the Handicapped and for your attendance at the funeral. Your kindness and support have given us great comfort and strength at this sad time. Thank you.

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OBITUARIES

AGNES LATHAM

Agnes Latham, Reader in English at Bedford College, London, 1958-75, died in Pickering, North Yorkshire, on January 13 aged 90. She was born on January 31, 1905.

A SCHOLARLY woman born into an age which did not make life particularly easy for talents like hers, Agnes Latham will be best remembered as the editor of what is still the standard edition of the poems of Sir Walter Ralegh. Undertaken with no more than a year's research grant from the corporation of Wakefield (to whom eternal credit is due for their farsightedness), her edition of *The Poems of Sir Walter Ralegh* was published in 1929 and later reprinted. Although some of the poems she included have since been attributed to other authors, she was canny enough to disarm potential critics by noting her own reservations.

As remarkable as the edition itself — from one so young as she then was — is her introduction to the volume. It demonstrates a scholarly but also instinctive insight into the fiery spirit of Ralegh and his age, and of the vagaries of life in the often dangerous royal circle. As she noted, the seaman, poet and chronicler "is yet a lonely and enigmatic figure. Of all those curious dead-and-gone folk, who hide we know not what of human passion and desire behind the scant memorials and alien manners of the sixteenth century, he is the most baffling ... He planned skiey palaces and mapped new worlds; and his contemporaries, of less vaulting mind, could make nothing of them. He was not a man of achievement but a man of promise, a quickening spirit. His world is, and was, the world of the creative imagination."

Agnes Latham was for thirty years after the war a much respected teacher in the University of London. She also devoted years to an edition of Ralegh's letters which is being prepared for publication.

Agnes Mary Christabel Latham was one of three sisters, descended on their mother's side from the Booths, well known in Yorkshire as organ-builders. From Wakefield Girls High School she won an entrance scholarship to Oxford and read English language and literature at Somerville, graduating with a first-class degree in 1926. She almost immediately began work on her celebrated edition of Ralegh's poems. Notwithstanding this feat, like so many outstanding women scholars of her generation, she found the university teaching profession closed to her, virtually until after the Second World War — and an appointment to the staff of Bedford College, London, in 1939 had to be held over until 1946.

Meanwhile she taught in schools, which she probably found somewhat irksome although her pupils were undoubtedly very well instructed, and those able to respond amazingly well-informed. In the 1930s, however, she had already begun work on an edition of Ralegh's letters, to replace and augment that of Edward Edwards published as long ago as 1868.

After the war, first as a lecturer and, from 1958, as Reader in English Literature at Bedford College, she continued, with the stimulus of university teaching and the accessibility of her main sources at the Public Record Office, the British Library and, most important of all, the Cecil papers at Hatfield House, to transcribe the letters in the elegant and legible hand which delighted those who corresponded with her to the end of her life.

In the 1970s she was invited to join a team led by Professor Pierre Lefranc of Laval University, Quebec, which was to prepare for publication, with support from the Canada Council, the whole of Ralegh's works. This brought her into touch with other North American Ralegh specialists such as Ernest Strathmann of California, and David Beers Quinn and the late Alison Quinn of the University of Liverpool. These were contacts she much enjoyed. They also provided her with the additional resources which enabled her to add substantially to her collection of letters — many of them never before printed — from repositories all over the northern hemisphere.

The demise of the Canadian project in 1975 left her free to complete her edition independently, which she aimed to do in retirement in her beloved Yorkshire. But with advancing years and beyond the easy reach of libraries she found the last lap beyond her. To her great joy, the completion and publication of her meticulously-edited texts are being undertaken at the University of Exeter.

Ralegh was not her only concern. In fact, progress on the letters was held up while she prepared her text of *As You Like It* for the Arden Shakespeare series, published in 1975. This won her many new admirers and friends.

Agnes Latham must have appeared to many as reserved and to others as somewhat formidable. But to those who came to know her well she was delightful company, kind, generous, witty and a keen observer of the world from which she contrived to remain wonderfully detached. Her review of yet another biography of Sir Walter Ralegh began, "It's that man again".

She was a writer of great elegance with a prose style that became sparer yet even more pregnant as the years went by. Although a scholar's scholar she was also a natural literary journalist who communicated her meaning in short, pithy sentences. Characteristic of her powers of wry observation was a short essay on Ben Jonson which she contributed to *The Times* in 1963, and which concluded: "In Jonson a love of literature amounted to a passion. If he liked a poem he had it by heart and repeated it aloud at the least provocation. He tended to associate poetry with getting slightly drunk. It offered an experience at once real, immediate and exhilarating, a shared pleasure and not one to be pursued in drawing rooms."

Agnes Latham continued to the very end to attend and to chair WEA classes in Pickering, and in spite of increasing frailty she was an indefatigable partaker in excursions into the North Yorkshire countryside.

She never married.

SIR NEIL LAWSON

Sir Neil Lawson, Judge of the High Court of Justice, 1971-83, died in London on January 26 aged 87. He was born on April 8, 1908.

NEIL LAWSON believed in, and served, the rule of law. He was a vigorous and committed socialist in his personal life; in his professional role, as a junior and as a silk, he was a vital and ubiquitous advocate who was in demand from every sector of national and political life. His practice was enormous and his appetite for work commensurate with it.

Always in chambers before 7am, with the window wide open in mid-winter and his door ajar, he would boast to the next arrival of the low cost of his "workman's ticket" (a ticket then available at cheap rate only to those who travelled to work very early) — all the time dispatching consultations at 20-minute intervals until the moment came, just before 10.30am, for him to leave for court in a blizzard of energy.

His range of clients was wide: ranging from Marlene Dietrich to the Electricians' Union (in the "ballot rigging" case) and from murderers of policemen to commercial institutions. In the eastern world he made and retained a giant's reputation as adviser to the Sultan of Brunei, as a result of which the title of "Dato" was bestowed upon him on three separate occasions. With the Sultan's team in 1959 he undertook long and tough negotiations with the British Government, which resulted in the transferring to the Sultan of full control over the internal affairs of Brunei. Previously, he had been constitutional adviser to eight rulers of the Malay States before their country acquired its independence as Malaysia (from which Brunei wisely kept out) in 1957. Thereafter he helped to draft several contemporary constitutions, including those of Ghana, Uganda and Nigeria.

He was a prominent left-winger of the 1930s. He conducted an inquiry into the Reichstag fire of 1933, which was credited with forcing the Nazis to release Georgi Dimitrov and his Bulgarian colleagues before its conclusion. (It was a feat which, Lawson liked to recall, was acknowledged by his being granted the right to travel free on the tramcars of Sofia for life.) He was a founder member of the National Council for Civil Liberties and, during the war, joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Once the war was over, he returned to practise at the Bar, taking silk in 1955. After ten years as a leader he was an obvious choice as Sir Leslie Scarman's deputy on the founding of the Law Commission, which he joined in 1965 and worked at tirelessly until his appointment to the High Court Bench in 1971. He was made an honorary fellow of the London School of Economics in 1974, partly in recognition of this work. After Scarman left the Law Commission, Lawson became its chairman and genuinely enjoyed the process of law reform, although by no means always the committee system through which he had to operate. It was a time when governments acted on Law Commission proposals with more alacrity than later tended to be the case. Many effective reforms were made and several parliamentary Bills successfully enacted.

The High Court Bench proved to be scarcely less eventful. Lawson's independence of spirit led him to criticise injustice wherever he saw it. This caused him on occasions to remark unfavourably on the strict rules of precedent under which puisne judges have to operate when dealing with decisions of the higher courts. But the same lack of respect for rank ensured a fair, if rapid, hearing for all comers to his court. There were no preconceptions there, except possibly for a sneaking affection for the underdog.

When he retired his output of work, if anything, increased. Just as, when at the Bar (before legal aid) he was always willing in a proper case to act for nothing, and was in private life a generous man, so after his time on the Bench he declined private work and continued in public service for several years sitting as a Judge in Chambers in "Room 98" at the Royal Courts of Justice.

This was no Orwellian room of horrors (save perhaps for an underprepared advocate) but a place where he was able to indulge his intellectual speed and voracity for work. It was a period he later remembered as his happiest time as a Judge.

He is survived by his wife Gwen, a son and a daughter.

EDWARD GOODMAN

Edward Goodman, author, died on February 3 aged 81. He was born on January 13, 1915.

EDWARD GOODMAN liked to describe himself as an author, but his contribution to liberal thought — both with a capital "L" and a small one — was much greater than that of the three books he wrote. As the founder of the Acton Society and a trustee of the Joseph Rowntree Social Service Trust he helped to put into practice his passionately held beliefs in the principles of individual freedom, toleration and decentralisation.

Edward Frederick Weston Goodman was the son of a successful estate agent who sent him to Mill Hill, then a strongly Nonconformist public school. It was here that he first developed his interest in politics and the League of Nations. However, Goodman was dissuaded from pursuing his education further by his father who, suffering from ill-health, wanted help with the family business.

After a brief rebellion against parental wishes, when, on the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Goodman travelled to Spain — his father only discovered this when he saw his son's byline in a newspaper — he reluctantly went into estate agency and qualified as a surveyor. This qualification, which in later life used rather to embarrass him, nonetheless enabled him not only to earn a comfortable living but was also responsible for him meeting Seebohm Rowntree, the man who was to transform his life.

Rowntree, the scion of the York chocolate manufacturer and dedicated philanthropist, spotted Goodman as a likely Liberal who could help his trust's property portfolio. In 1946 Goodman became a Rowntree trustee, and two years later he founded the Acton Society. This was intended to be a liberal version of the Fabians — a social research foundation which would propagate the ideas of Lord Acton, the 19th-century Cambridge historian, and attempt to reconcile Liberal, Marxist and Christian thinking — particularly in Government and industry.

The society's first work was to study the newly-formed National Health Service and it produced a series of pamphlets on the composition of the boards and hospitals. It financed pioneering work on issues like local government and housing and in 1953 Goodman published his first book *Forms of Public Control and Ownership*.

In the 1950s Goodman, regretting his lack of university education, enrolled at the London School of Economics where he came under the influence of Karl Popper and Lionel Robbins. He never took a degree, something which always saddened him, but was instead urged by Robbins to concentrate on his writing. In 1969 he published *The Impact of Size*, a book which developed many of the ideas popularised in E. F. Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful*, though where Schumacher had tended to focus on appropriate technologies, Goodman concentrated rather more on the types of organisational structure which would secure more meaningful work for individuals and a thriving industrial and commercial culture.

In the mid-1960s Goodman moved his home to Italy, a country whose regional government, civic pride, industrial structure and banking system he greatly admired. He was particularly interested in the role of the small firm in the Italian "economic miracle". But he remained an active Rowntree trustee and, when the trust set up 9 Poland Street as a powerhouse for pressure group politics, he kept an office there. At this stage he also played a key role in setting up a study of toleration at York University.

Meanwhile, from his base in Italy, Goodman continued to write — often scribbling his ideas down on the back of envelopes in the middle of the night for a succession of research assistants to transcribe in the morning. In 1975 he published *A Study of Liberty and Revolution*, a book which attempted to resolve the conflict of modern industrial society with human values, and put forward a theory of liberty, first as a social philosophy, then as a force for social change.

Despite a somewhat unorthodox personal life, Goodman remained a committed Anglican, struggling in Florence to go to church every Sunday, before his eventual return to Britain when symptoms of Parkinson's disease first began to show. Goodman also remained a committed Liberal and was amused just before his death by the suggestion that he had pioneered the concepts of stake-holding and communitarianism which Tony Blair has recently made so fashionable.

Edward Goodman was married and divorced twice. He is survived by a son and two daughters, and by his partner Gill Carter, with whom he lived for 18 years.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

SAM GREEN

Sam Green, CBE, campaigner for the disabled, industrialist and inventor, died on January 21 aged 88. He was born on February 6, 1907.

SAM GREEN reorganised Remploy, the leading employers of the disabled, placed it on an industrial footing and expanded about a dozen workshops to 90 factories. He used his industrial experience and connections to persuade industry to provide work for disabled people. Green performed similar services as chairman of the Industrial Advisers to the Blind and for the Royal British Legion.

He was an inventor who later became chairman of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors (IPI) and vice-president of the International Inventors Federation. A man of many interests, a keen walker and cyclist, Green was also involved in founding the British Youth Hostel Movement.

Sam Green was born in the cotton town of Oldham, Lancashire, and started work at the age of 13 at Platt Bros, textile manufacturers. Having qualified both as an electrical and mechanical engineer, he became a draughtsman. In 1936 he invented the box motion of the four-colour automatic loom for the Northrop Loom Company.

As chief engineer of Betts & Co, London, in 1939 he put their factories on a war footing. In 1945 he joined the International Commercial Finance Corporation as an industrial adviser.

In 1952 Sir Walter Monckton, as Minister of Labour, appointed him managing director of Remploy. He enlarged the company, introduced machinery to make work easier for the disabled and established an incentive scheme.

In 1961 he was appointed CBE for his services to the disabled. Four years later he became chairman of the Industrial Advisers to the Blind, and the Royal British Legion approached him to organise its Poppy Factory and Legion Industries in a similar manner to the work he had done at Remploy.

Green was a director and chairman of private and public companies. He never wished to retire and continued working in his electrical business until last October. He maintained his interest in the disabled and inventions. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

ON THIS DAY

February 8, 1946

The war may have been over but the world food shortage clouded the peace. Butter, margarine and cooking fats were reduced from eight to seven ounces, and in May, for the first time, bread was rationed.

THE FOOD SHORTAGE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—If, as the Food Minister tells us, the present needs of the wheat importing countries are "appalling," and we in Britain have to forgo 250,000 tons of our anticipated wheat imports during the current half-year, with a prospect of further drastic curtailments thereafter, is it true wisdom to trust to spring-sown wheat (accurately described by your Agricultural Correspondent as a "chancy" crop in our climate) to fill the gap?

In spite of the extra labour involved in planting and lifting, should we not rather concentrate this spring on planting a large additional acreage of potatoes? They are universally acknowledged as the chief dietetic equivalent of wheat. Unlike wheat and barley, they are plantable everywhere, yield a heavier per acre output of energy-producing food, and are consumable alike by man and beast.

Yours faithfully,

Lydney, Feb 6. BLEDISLOE.

Sir,—Today's announcement by the Minister of Food shows clearly that the need to grow the largest possible acreage of wheat in this country is as great as ever. Three steps are necessary, and there is no time to be lost if spring wheat is to make up for at least part of the deficiency. (1) The immediate reinstatement of the acreage payment for wheat to £4 (now reduced to £2). (2) Absolute priority for the threshing and delivery of seed wheat varieties suitable for spring planting. (3) A reasoned appeal to farmers to grow as large an acreage of spring wheat as they can.

When the acreage payment for wheat was reduced, a wheat glut in the world markets was expected. The statisticians were wrong, and unless the Government moves speedily wheat that could and should be grown in England will never be planted.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. FREUND.

Wilcote House, Charlbury, Oxon., Feb. 5.

CALL FOR SACRIFICES

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MELBOURNE, Feb 7.

Almost every Australian newspaper makes the British food crisis the subject of its chief editorial to-day, urging Australians to limit their demands on their abundance in order to divert as much as possible to those whose needs are infinitely greater.

This, it is suggested, can be done by a number of measures—by tightening the administration of rationing, especially of meat, of which at least as much should be sent to the United Kingdom as was being supplied to the American forces; by supplementing shipments of butter with useful supplies of cooking fats, which are daily wasted in Australia; by using substitute stock feeds and economizing in bread consumption to provide more wheat for export; and by reducing the existing rations of meat, sugar and butter.

Typical of the comments from public men is that of the Premier of Victoria, Mr. John Cain, who declared that the news that the lion-hearted people of the United Kingdom were to have their rations further curtailed was too fearful to contemplate, and he promised the Victorian Government would do everything it could to help them.

Substantial quantities of food, including meat, butter, cheese, and eggs were stored in Australia at the end of 1945 for shipment to the United Kingdom, and it is believed that there is no reason why this food should not be exported immediately provided that shipping is available.

هكذا فن الاجمل

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 1996

NEWS

Blair puts hereditary peers on notice

■ Tony Blair yesterday put Britain's hereditary peers on notice to quit with his strongest pledge that a Labour Government would swiftly end a system under which people wielded power on the basis of birth but not merit or election.

He put forward a two-stage plan for reform of the House of Lords under which the right of some 750 hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Upper House would be scrapped in an early piece of constitutional legislation .... **Pages 1, 11, 19**

Top Foreign Office woman quits

■ Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, 56, the most senior woman in the Foreign Office, is to join the National Westminster Bank after rejecting two top posts — as ambassador to Bonn and special adviser to the Prime Minister. Her salary of £200,000 could be doubled by performance-related payments...... **Page 1**

Lockerbie gesture

The people of Lockerbie, whose community was devastated by Britain's worst air disaster, have taken in hundreds of stranded motorists in a remarkable show of community spirit..... **Pages 1, 5**

Scott storm gathers

Betty Bothroyd, the Speaker of the Commons, stepped into the growing row over the Scott report by supporting Labour demands for an early sight of the 1,800-page document................. **Page 1**

Crash jet uninsured

A Boeing 757 which crashed off the Dominican Republic killing all 189 on board was not properly insured and had not received formal authorisation to make the fatal flight.................. **Pages 1, 14**

The Beast jailed

A rapist known as the Beast of Belgravia, who attacked a woman days after being discharged from a psychiatric unit, got five life sentences........ **Page 3**

Carling complaint

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has defended his decision to reject Julia Carling's complaint about privacy invasion............... **Page 5**

Wrong Pole

American scientists have found that the much-photographed post used to mark the location of the South Pole has been stuck in the wrong place...................... **Page 6**

Blurred culture

Schools must introduce pupils to high culture and help them to escape the creed that sees no difference between Schubert and Blur, the Government's chief curriculum adviser said ....**Page 7**

Heir to stay

Jay Khadka, 19, a former Nepalese mountain boy who is heir to an 18th-century English castle and a £1.5 million fortune, may have won his appeal against being deported .... **Page 10**

Taking the veil

After a lifetime trying to escape her father's bloody legacy, Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's only daughter, may have found sanctuary for her soul in a Catholic convent .... **Page 12**

Film fraud

Germany's most adventurous maker of documentaries has been exposed — 22 of his scoops were staged with the help of disguised neighbours and friends.. **Page 13**

Jiang jitters

President Jiang Zemin of China is reported to be uneasy about jingoist leaders in the People's Liberation Army who are urging tough action against Taiwan.... **Page 14**

Man of the Right

Pat Buchanan proclaimed himself the Republican Right's undisputed standard bearer after dealing Phil Gramm a crippling blow in Louisiana .... **Page 15**

Army recruits invited to stand easy

■ Lieutenant-General Hew Pike, who fought in one of the Falklands' toughest battles, told MPs that measures had been introduced to ensure recruits were not put off military life by an over-exuberant sergeant-major. He said: "We don't put them into boots straight away. We have less of a sink-or-swim approach than in the past" .... **Page 3**

GILL ALLEN

Friends of the Tate queueing in London yesterday for the Cézanne exhibition, which opens to the public today. Pages 1, 13, 18, 19, 33

BUSINESS

Railway setback: Negotiations over the £3 billion Channel Tunnel Rail Link contract have been set back by alleged financial irregularities at Union Railways, the company that designed it.........**Page 23**

Lloyds Chemist: A bid battle is under way for control of Lloyds Chemist with a £584 million bid from Gehe, the German pharmaceutical wholesaler, for the British chain. UniChem, which had made an agreed bid of £530 million, may top the offer ....**Page 23**

Markets: The FTSE-100 index chose to ignore another record-breaking run on Wall Street and ended up 21.4 points down at 3,726.1. Sterling was down 0.5c against the dollar at $1.5363 and up 0.3Pf at 2.2715 ....**Page 26**

SPORT

Cricket: Robin Smith, the most prolific run-scorer in England's World Cup party, may be out of the competition after damaging his groin during a practice match in Lahore .... **Page 44**

Football: Uefa and Europe's top clubs agreed to allow the eight leading nations an automatic second entry into an expanded European Cup.......................... **Page 44**

Rugby union: Scotland, unbeaten after two matches, announced an unchanged side to play Wales in the five nations' championship in Cardiff .... **Page 39**

Rugby league: Ellery Hanley, the former Great Britain captain and coach, is to join Sydney Tigers. His last competitive appearance was ten months ago................. **Page 39**

Princess perfect: Best of the week's films is *A Little Princess*, from Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic. Also out are a gritty Spike Lee film, *Clockers*, and *Desperado*, starring Antonio Banderas............ **Page 31**

Lee's night out: The comic Lee Evans has begun a run at the Lyric Theatre. "He seldom ventures far from Essex man's world," says Benedict Nightingale........**Page 32**

Cézanne du jour: To celebrate the Tate's exhibition, Richard Cork presents a daily choice of Cézanne's pictures ....**Page 33**

Jinx lifted: After cancelling one performance when the tenor died and another when a blizzard struck, the New York Met staged Janáček's *Makropulos Case* with Jessye Norman in stunning form ......**Page 33**

No tomb: Cemeteries all over London are out of room, Julia Llewellyn Smith reports.... **Page 17**

Playing the part: All actors are typecast to some extent. Their bodies, faces, voices and, often, personalities dictate or limit who they can play .... **Page 17**

Time to heal: Emma Wilkins talks to Graeme Gibson, the British diplomat paralysed after an armed car-jacking in Nairobi, now coming to terms with his injuries at Stoke Mandeville................ **Page 16**

Up and away: The travel industry is facing one of its toughest challenges: the premature enthusiasm of seasoned travellers and avid partygoers to celebrate the millennium in style ....**Page 37**

The American share of the UN budget and peacekeeping costs is too high. Why not let Washington pay what it already owes as a precondition for a fairer assessment formula? The UN needs greater discipline about agreeing to costly new ventures, especially peacekeeping. Lack of real accountability and rigorous financial controls in a multinational bureaucracy can only undermine trust in the organisation itself — *The New York Times*

Preview: Derek Hatton reflects on life in and out of politics. *My Brilliant Career* (BBC2, 8pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard on the men of Hollywood and Whitehall........Page 43

Blair's constitutional

The clearest water in British politics now lies between the Labour and Conservative positions on the constitution. The question is whether Labour's proposals fit Britain's evolutionary tradition or represent a damaging upheaval ...... **Page 19**

Lilley's logic

If care is to be taken of the millions more who will be living on pensions in a generation's time then money needs to be put away, money the Government does not have. The best way to safeguard care is for individuals to make their own provision ....**Page 19**

No other fruit

Paintings and sketches by Paul Cézanne — bright leaves in an artistic whirlwind — have come to the Tate Gallery in London. Visitors should rejoice in the opportunity to revel in this art of many textures ...**Page 19**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The question of Bart's closure involves the choice between catastrophe and an opportunity, between something much worse and something much better than we have at present. The orthodox view is that it is better to let the whole system break down ....**Page 18**

PETER RIDDELL

Both parties are claiming exaggeratedly that the constitution's survival depends on their victory. The Tories need to be less dogmatic and Labour has to address the flaws in its approach........................ **Page 11**

ALAN COREN

You don't know how lucky I am. I have been up Cézanne's ladder. It has an iffy rung. But I do not intend to tell you which one .... **Page 18**

Agnes Latham, editor of the poems of Sir Walter Raleigh; **Sir Neil Lawson**, High Court judge; **Edward Goodman**, author; **Sam Green**, campaigner ....Page 21

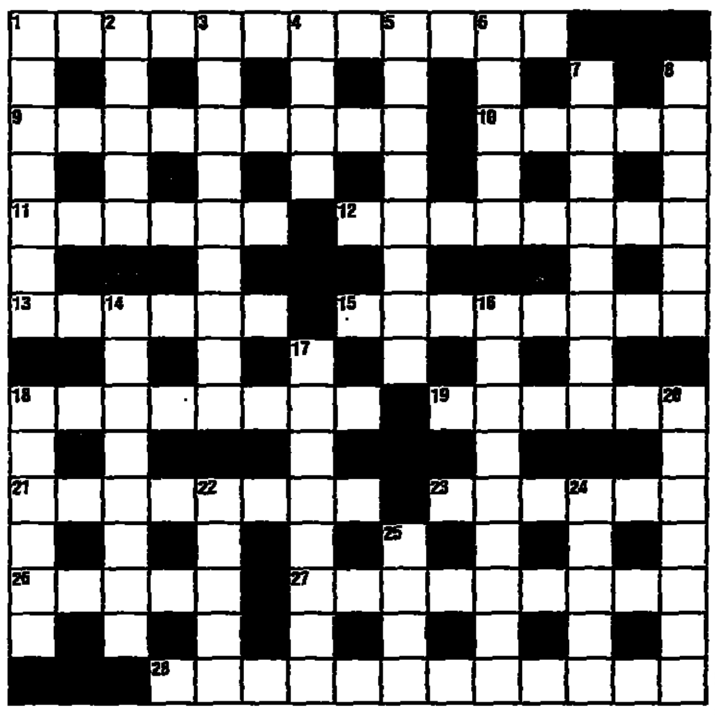
Complementary medicine; rules for juries; cricket World Cup; Angola ....Page 19

IN THE TIMES

■ **SWINGING TIMES**
Free 24-page guide to the 1996 *Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge

■ **STOREY LINES**
Valerie Grove meets David Storey; Benedict Nightingale reviews his *Changing Room*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,085



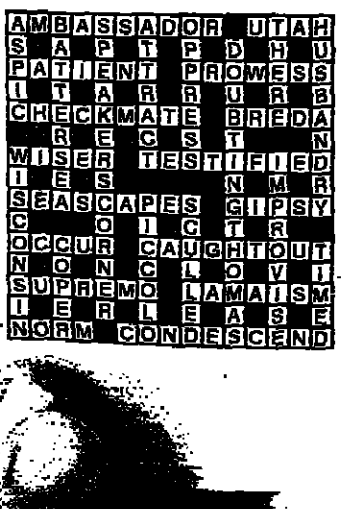
ACROSS

1 High-rise building resulting in discord, in manner of speaking (5,2,5).
9 Put in new order to erect kitchen fireplace (9).
10 Man embracing girl, showing a peculiar expression (5).
11 A section's dab hands (6).
12 Was abusive like, essentially, dunderhead (8).
13 Break the rules in disappointing final (6).
15 Word of warning the players anticipate (8).
18 Stop a squat in a ground floor place (8).
19 Batter used in snack bar (6).
21 Free beer, alas, is apt to be cancelled (8).
23 Come close to emotional outburst in mass immersion (6).
26 Pass 40, say (5).
27 End up fetching about a pound with bird (9).
28 He promotes a policy, and is brought in to support a point (12).

DOWN

1 Violent storm split a party (7).
2 I and others find a short way to make cloth (5).
3 Drama over fairy queen being executed in novel setting (9).
4 Punitively charged, we hear, for bargain (4).
5 Dislike wrought iron vase (8).
6 Here's an example of how to do this (5).
7 Court official upholds mine workers (8).
8 In the centre of Maidstone one's got lost somehow (6).
14 Feathered bird show? (3,5).
16 Change in religious instruction due to scholarship (9).
17 Size of paper for comic that is a penny (8).
18 Tea-maker gives brother a jug (6).
20 Persecute soldiers in breach of duty (7).
22 Psychiatrist whose name Irene the adventuress dropped (5).
24 Motorway occupied by early morning in US city (5).
25 The colours fade (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,084



Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
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Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, -3C (27F); highest rainfall: Camborne, Cornwall, 1.06 in; highest sunshine: Kinloss, Moray Firth, 7.8 hr

Forecast the Weather and Win £1000 Worth of Clothing.

See page 7 for details.

Burberrys
OF LONDON

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be generally cloudy, with snow in northern England, North Wales, and later down the east coast. The fog in central and eastern parts will clear slowly. During the evening, rain, sleet and snow will spread from the southwest. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be cloudy, with snow across much of Scotland. Wintry showers will spread into western parts and Northern Ireland in the afternoon. Later in the evening, sleet and snow will spread from the southwest.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England:** fog clearing, but cloudy, some bright spells. Cold. Max 2C (36F). Wind east light becoming moderate southeast later.

☐ **E Anglia, Midlands, NW England, Central N:** fog slowly clearing, remaining cloudy. Cold. Max 1C (34F). Wind easterly light becoming moderate southeast later.

☐ **E & NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** cloudy, outbreaks of mainly light snow. Max 1C (34F). Wind easterly light becoming moderate SE.

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** cloudy, some bright spells, snow and rain during evening. Max 3C (37F). Wind moderate to fresh northwest, becoming near gale southerly.

☐ **N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland:** cloudy, light wintry showers, snow late evening. Max 2C (36F). Wind moderate northwest, becoming strong southeast.

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** outbreaks of snow throughout. Max 2C (36F). Wind moderate westerly becoming strong southeast later.

☐ **Outlook:** very windy with wintry showers, after the rain and snow clears east.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

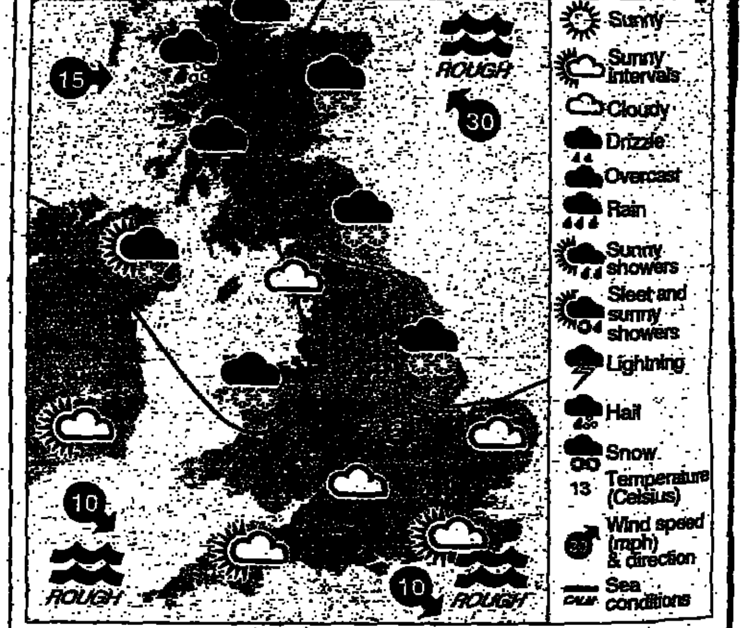
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.43	0	32	sn	Littlehmptn	-	0.02	2	36	c
Anglesey	1.2	-	3	37	c	Liverpool	-	-	0	32	c
Aspatria	4.5	0.02	0	32	b	London	0.1	-	2	36	c
Aviemore	5.5	-	1	34	s	Lowestoft	-	-	1	34	sn
Belfast	0.1	-	4	39	c	Manchester	0.2	0.04	0	32	c
Birmingham	-	0.28	-1	30	sn	Margate	0.2	-	2	36	sn
Bognor R	-	0.02	1	34	du	Minehead	-	0.08	2	35	sn
Bournem'th	-	0.06	3	37	sl	Morecambe	-	-	0	32	du
Bristol	-	0.20	1	34	c	Newcastle	0.3	0.01	0	32	sn
Buxton	-	0.05	-3	27	du	Newquay	0.1	0.74	5	41	r
Cardiff	-	-	1	34	sn	Norwich	X				
Clacton	-	-	2	36	c	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	-	X	0	32	c
Colwyn Bay	X					Penzance	0.3	0.87	6	43	gS
Cromer	-	-	1	34	sl	Plymouth	X				
Doncaster	X					Poole	X				
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	-	0	32	c
Eastbourne	-	0.01	1	34	sn	Ross-o-wye	-	0.02	-1	30	du
Edinburgh	-	0.08	1	34	sn	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.04	-1	30	sn	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	-	0.39	4	39	sl	Sandown	-	0.03	5	41	sn
Falmouth	0.5	0.48	7	45	c	Saunton Snd	-	0.05	4	39	sl
Fishguard	0.1	-	3	37	c	Scarboro'	-	0.02	1	34	sn
Folkestone	-	-	2	36	du	Shanklin	-	0.02	4	39	c
Glasgow	-	-	1	34	du	Shrewsbury	-	-	-1	30	du
Guernsey	-	0.52	5	41	sl	Skegness	-	-	1	34	c
Hastings	-	-	3	37	c	Southend	2.4	-	2	36	b
Hayling I.	-	0.02	1	34	sn	Southport	X				
Herne Bay	-	-	1	34	du	Southsea	-	0.02	2	36	sn
Hove	-	-	3	37	du	St. Ives	X				
Hunstanton	-	-	1	34	du	Stornoway	0.9	0.04	5	41	sh
Ilfracombe	-	X	5	41	sl	Swanage	-	0.11	5	41	sl
Isle of Man	-	-	2	36	du	Teignmouth	-	0.63	5	41	sl
Jersey	-	0.65	3	37	sl	Tenby	X				
Kinloss	7.8	0.02	3	37	s	Tiree	0.1	0.15	4	39	sl
Leeds	0.1	-	0	32	c	Torquay	-	0.41	4	39	r
Lerwick	-	0.05	2	36	sn	Ventnor	-	0.03	5	41	sl
Leuchars	2.3	0.16	-1	30	sn	Weymouth	-	0.20	5	41	sn

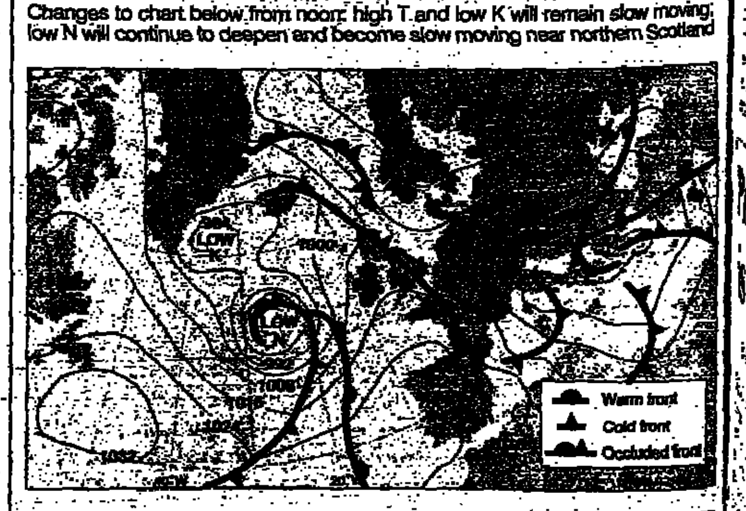
ABROAD

Ajaccio	9	48	c	C'phagn	-4	25	sn	Majorca	15	59	f	Rome	9	48	s
Akrotiri	18	64	f	Dublin	6	43	s	Malaga	19	66	f	S Fr'sco	12	54	c
Alex'dria	23	73	s	Dubrovnik	7	45	c	Malta	13	55	f	S Paulo	29	84	c
Algiers	12	54	r	Faro	15	59	c	Melb'rne	22	72	c	Salzburg	-7	19	s
Amst'dm	-4	25	c	Florence	6	43	s	Mexico C	16	61	s	Santiago	28	82	s
Athens	14	57	c	Frankfurt	-5	23	s	Miami	17	63	c	Seoul	0	32	f
B Aires	26	79	s	Funchal	18	64	f	Milan	3	37	s	Sing'por	29	84	f
Bahrain	18	64	s	Geneva	3	37	f	Montreal	-11	12	-	St'kholm	-5	23	f
Bangkok	31	88	s	Gibraltar	17	63	d	Moscow	-15	5	s	Strasb'rg	-3	27	c
Barcelona	12	54	c	Helsinki	-8	18	s	Munich	-6	21	s	Sydney	23	73	f
Beirut	20	68	s	Hong K	19	66	s	N Delhi	23	73	s	Tangier	16	61	d
Belgrade	-4	25	s	Innsbrck	-1	30	s	N York	-4	25	s	Tel Aviv	21	70	s
Berlin	-6	21	s	Istanbul	4	39	r	Nairobi	27	81	f	Tenerife	21	70	f
Bermuda	15	59	c	Jeddah	32	90	s	Naples	9	48	c	Tokyo	9	48	s
Biarritz	13	55	f	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Nice	6	43	r	Toronto	-8	18	f
Borde'x	12	54	c	Karachi	27	81	s	Oslo	-7	19	c	Tunis	13	55	c
Brussels	-1	30	c	L Angels	16	61	f	Paris	1	34	c	Valencia	16	61	f
Budapst	-5	23	sn	L Palmas	21	70	f	Peking	3	37	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	r
Cairo	25	77	s	Le Tquet	2	36	f	Perth	30	86	f	Venice	1	34	s
Cape Tn	28	82	s	Lisbon	15	59	c	Prague	-9	16	s	Vienna	-8	18	c
Ch'church	15	59	-	Locarno	2	36	sn	Reykjavik	-4	25	s	Warsaw	-7	19	f
Chicago	-3	27	s	Luxembg	-6	21	c	Rhodes	16	61	f	Wash'ton	-1	30	s
Cologne	-4	25	f	Luxor	31	88	s	Rio de J	27	81	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	c
Corfu	11	52	f	Madrid	14	57	f	Riyadh	23	73	s	Zurich	-2	28	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: high T and low K will remain slow moving; low N will continue to deepen and become slow moving near northern Scotland



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3:50	6.8	4:18	6.9	Leith	4:43	5.3	4:59	5.3
Aberdeen	3:31	4.1	3:37	4.2	Liverpool	1:11	9.0	1:27	9.2
Avonmouth	9:18	12.6	9:38	12.4	Lowestoft	11:49	2.3	11:46	2.5
Belfast	0:51	3.2	1:17	3.6	Margate	1:42	4.8	2:05	4.5
Cardiff	9:00	11.7	9:19	11.4	Milford Haven	8:15	6.7	8:34	6.5
Devonport	7:58	5.2	8:16	5.0	Newquay	7:08	6.7	7:26	6.5
Dover	0:48	6.6	12:59	6.4	Oban	7:38	3.9	7:58	3.7
Dublin (N Wall)	4:22	4.0	5:16	3.7	Penzance	6:38	5.3	6:52	5.1
Falmouth	7:03	5.0	7:18	4.8	Portland	8:51	2.0	9:11	1.9
Greenock	2:43	3.1	2:44	3.5	Portsmouth	1:15	4.6	1:28	4.5
Harwich	1:36	3.8	1:56	3.8	Shoreham	1:00	6.1	1:12	6.0
Holyhead	0:14	5.3	12:28	5.4	Southampton	0:39	4.4	12:52	4.4
Hull (Albert D)	8:26	7.1	8:29	7.3	Swansea	8:26	9.0	8:45	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	7:59	9.0	8:19	8.8	Tees	5:51	5.0	6:01	[illegible]
King's Lynn	8:19	6.4	8:36	6.6	Walton-on-Naze	1:33	4.0	1:55	4.1

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Sun rises: 7.29 am
Sun sets: 5.02 pm
Moon sets 8.40 am
Moon rises 9.38 pm

London 5.02 pm to 7.27 am
Bristol 5.11 pm to 7.37 am
Edinburgh 5.00 pm to 7.53 am
Manchester 5.04 pm to 7.41 am
Penzance 5.27 pm to 7.45 am

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